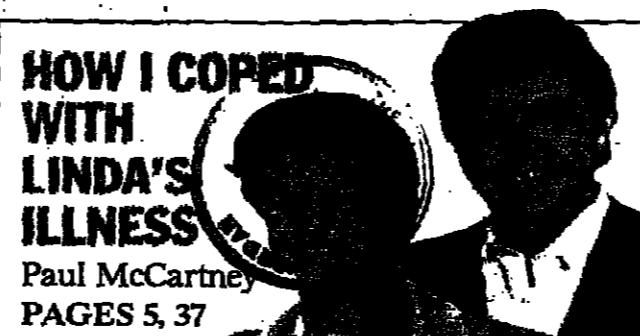


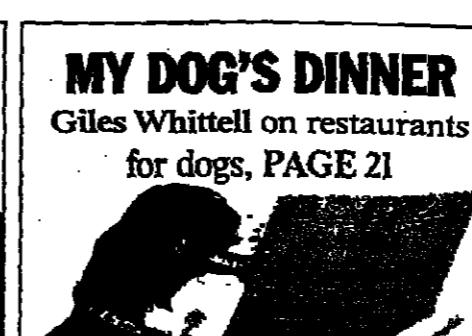
LYNNE
TRUSS
TACKLES THE
WEMBLEY
TURF
PAGE 50



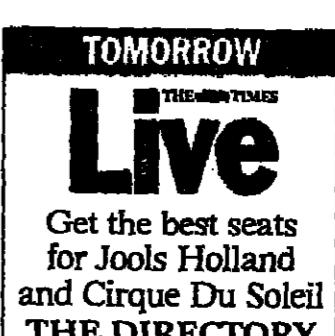
THE RISE
AND RISE
OF BABY
GAP
PAGE 21



HOW I COPE
WITH
LINDA'S
ILLNESS
Paul McCartney
PAGES 5, 37



MY DOG'S DINNER
Giles Whittell on restaurants
for dogs, PAGE 21



TOMORROW
THE TIMES
Live
Get the best seats
for Jools Holland
and Cirque Du Soleil
THE DIRECTORY

Battle turns to bitterness and abuse

Tories attack 'bare-faced lies by Blair'

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR was accused of telling "bare-faced despicable lies" yesterday as the general election campaign degenerated to a level of bitterness and abuse rarely seen in British politics.

Stung by claims by the Labour leader that the Tories intended to abolish the state pension, the Prime Minister last night led a barrage of attacks against Mr Blair. Mr Major said that the Labour leadership were "plain liars" and at Conservative headquarters Brian Mawhinney, the Tory chairman, and Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, accused Mr Blair directly eight times of lying over pensions and alleging the Tories would put VAT on food.

Mr Dorrell said of Mr Blair: "The tougher the questioning, the more he panics. The more he panics the more he lies — telling bare-faced despicable lies."

With the latest poll last night showing Labour 20.4% steady at 16 per cent the party's leadership dismissed the assault on Mr Blair as the act of "desperate people resorting to desperate measures". They claim their attack had "struck a massive nerve" and decided last night to change their

campaign plans for today to keep the spotlight on pensions.

The Tory attacks were designed partly to damage Mr Blair's integrity on the night when Labour's election broadcast showed him chatting at home with his children and talking about his beliefs. Mr Dorrell said: "Today he peddled lies about our proposals for the state pension with the sole intent of whipping up fears among pensioners."

There was more. "Once again this morning we saw how he panicked when faced with serious questions. A rabbit caught in the headlights looks positively relaxed when compared with Mr Blair answering a question on economics."

Scarcely less severe was Dr Mawhinney. He said that in statement after statement Mr Blair had been telling lies.

Major rejects Saatchi advertising blitz

By ANDREW PIERCE AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

JOHN MAJOR has overruled plans by Lord Saatchi for a big advertising campaign in the last week before the election because the Conservative Party's finances have already been stretched to the limit.

In a sign of deepening tension at Central Office, it was disclosed last night that the Prime Minister had rejected a personal plea from the advertising mastermind. Lord Saatchi lobbied Mr Major on his flight back from Aberdeen on Wednesday evening.

But the Prime Minister, who has taken a close interest in the advertising campaign,

rejected Lord Saatchi's proposal for a blitz in national newspapers, partly because he feared that it could be interpreted as a sign of panic. The party has spent about £11 million in the past 18 months.

Conservative Party sources indicated that the envisaged campaign could have cost more than £1 million.

A friend of the Prime Minister said last night: "He is determined not to leave the party's finances in a mess at the end of the election campaign. Budget figures were agreed. We are going to stick to them."

Top charities pay heads £100,000

Directors of 14 charities are paid more than £100,000 a year and the average salary of chief executives in the top 100 voluntary organisations is £75,000, according to a survey of the nation's 3,000 main good causes. The charities have an annual turnover of £13 million. Page 6

Huge Roman villa found

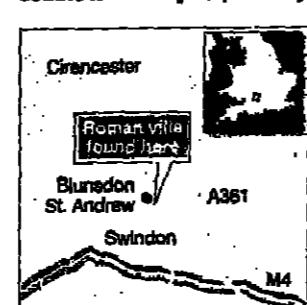
By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

WHAT may be the largest late Roman villa in Britain has been discovered on a building site four miles north of Swindon. Developers of a housing estate at Groundwell Ridge, near Blunsdon St Andrew, discovered an impressive wall about 3ft high when driving a road through the site. They immediately stopped work and, as required by Department of the Environment guidelines, provided access for archaeologists. Investigations have been organised by Bryn Walters of the Association for Roman Archaeology.

Actual archaeological digging has yet been undertaken, but a team from the archaeometry division of English Heritage has used geophysical surveying methods to estimate the size of the building. The team's preliminary results suggest that it lay within an enclosure up to 150 yards long and that it was not the only building on the site. Indications are that it is a

very large villa or a temple dating from the last century of Roman occupation. From its size, it could prove one of the most important ever found. Mr Walters said yesterday that he was not yet ready to comment. "It's too early to say anything," he said.

Swindon is proving a productive area for Roman remains. Last month a team of archaeologists reported the discovery of a Mediterranean-style villa south of the town. The site, in the valley of the Og, has produced a large double-handled jar, probably



Yellow line snares its inventor 50 years on

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

THERE was sweet revenge for Britain's motorists yesterday when George Musgrave fell victim to his own invention — the yellow line.

Mr Musgrave, who came up with the idea 50 years ago this month, was fined £20 for parking on a yellow line. Dr Paul Wilkinson, a part-time lecturer at the University of Kent, made the find while carrying out a survey for the local Swale Borough Council. He says that the pieces of mosaic are of very high quality, "as good, if not better, than any other found in England".

English Heritage surveyed the site before Easter and found evidence of at least one building. Dr Wilkinson believes that it may have been a country mansion owned by an important family and built as a weekend retreat. There are examples of these in Italy and France, but none has so far been found in Britain.

to find ways of improving road safety and he entered a selection of ideas, from putting railings outside school gates to preventing parking 20 yards either side of a zebra crossing — measures which are still in use today.

Painting lines along the pavement or road to stop cars from parking came to him when he was almost knocked down crossing the road after emerging from between parked cars. The council gave him a prize of £2 for the idea.

There were years of debate before yellow lines were accepted by the Government and the motoring establishment. They were first tried in London and in 1956 the streets of Slough turned to gold as it became the centre for experiments. Even in 1968, the Government was still implementing legislation trying to decide where yellow lines should be used and what, precisely, they should mean.

Private health cover

4 reasons why
people feel
better with
Primecare.

1. PROMPT private treatment
2. GENEROUS levels of cover
3. Surprisingly LOW premiums
4. No-claims DISCOUNT

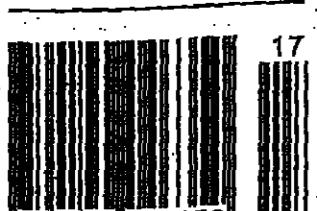
Why compromise on your private medical insurance to keep premiums low? With Primecare, you can enjoy truly comprehensive cover at a budget price. Even better, Prime Health gives you a generous no-claims discount, starting at 25% and rising to 50%. Discover why you're better off choosing Primecare.

Call now for a personal quotation
0800 779955
Quoting reference MO477MG



From only £21.51
a month

The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>



50, 51

LETTERS 23

OBITUARIES 25

MATTHEW PARRIS 22

ARTS 35-38

CHESS & BRIDGE 43

COURT & SOCIAL 24

SPORT 43-46, 48-50, 52

EDUCATION 41

LAW REPORT 39

Human rights appeal by bereaved husbands who want same benefits as women

Widowers' claim for cash equality 'may cost £490m'

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

TWO widowers have lodged claims against the Government after being denied payments available only to bereaved women. The Treasury says that giving equal rights to bereaved men could cost £490 million a year.

The Child Poverty Action Group, which is helping to support one of the cases to the European Court of Human Rights, says that virtually every other nation in western Europe treats widowers and widows equally. In Britain, men are still deemed to be the breadwinners.

The two men both gave up full-time work because their wives had cancer. Kevin Willis, 40, from Bristol, has launched proceedings after discovering that he is not eligible for some state benefits to help raise his two children.

Christopher Crossland, 38, from Wiltshire, who has three children, has lodged a claim over the refusal of the Inland Revenue to award him bereavement allowance.

An estimated 20,000 to 40,000 widowed fathers who could benefit from the various allowances if the claims succeed. The Government says

that "equalising" all widows' benefits could also include the widow's pension.

Mr Willis's wife Marlene had been the family's main breadwinner as a local government official before her illness. Her husband, who had been repeatedly made redundant, finally had to give up his job as a field service engineer to nurse her, and then to look after their children, aged 6 and 8. Last November, he put in claims for money equal to a lump sum "widow's payment" worth £1,000, and the widowed mother's allowance. He was turned down, but receives child benefit.

His case is backed by the Child Poverty Action Group and the Campaign for Widowed Fathers' Benefits. The European Convention on Human Rights guarantees the right to family life.

"The children suffered a grievous loss when they lost their mother," said Mr Willis. "It seems very unfair that they should suffer financially as well just because they have lost their mother and not their father."

The widowed mother's allowance is a benefit for wid-

owed mothers who have not remarried, is currently worth £62.45p a week, with an extra £9.90 a week for the eldest child and £11.20 a week for other children. This brings the total sum Mr Willis says he is denied to £83.55p a week, in addition to the £1,000 lump sum. He is using up his savings to keep the family solvent, and cannot have income support because he has savings.

Mr Crossland's claim has

the backing of Liberty.

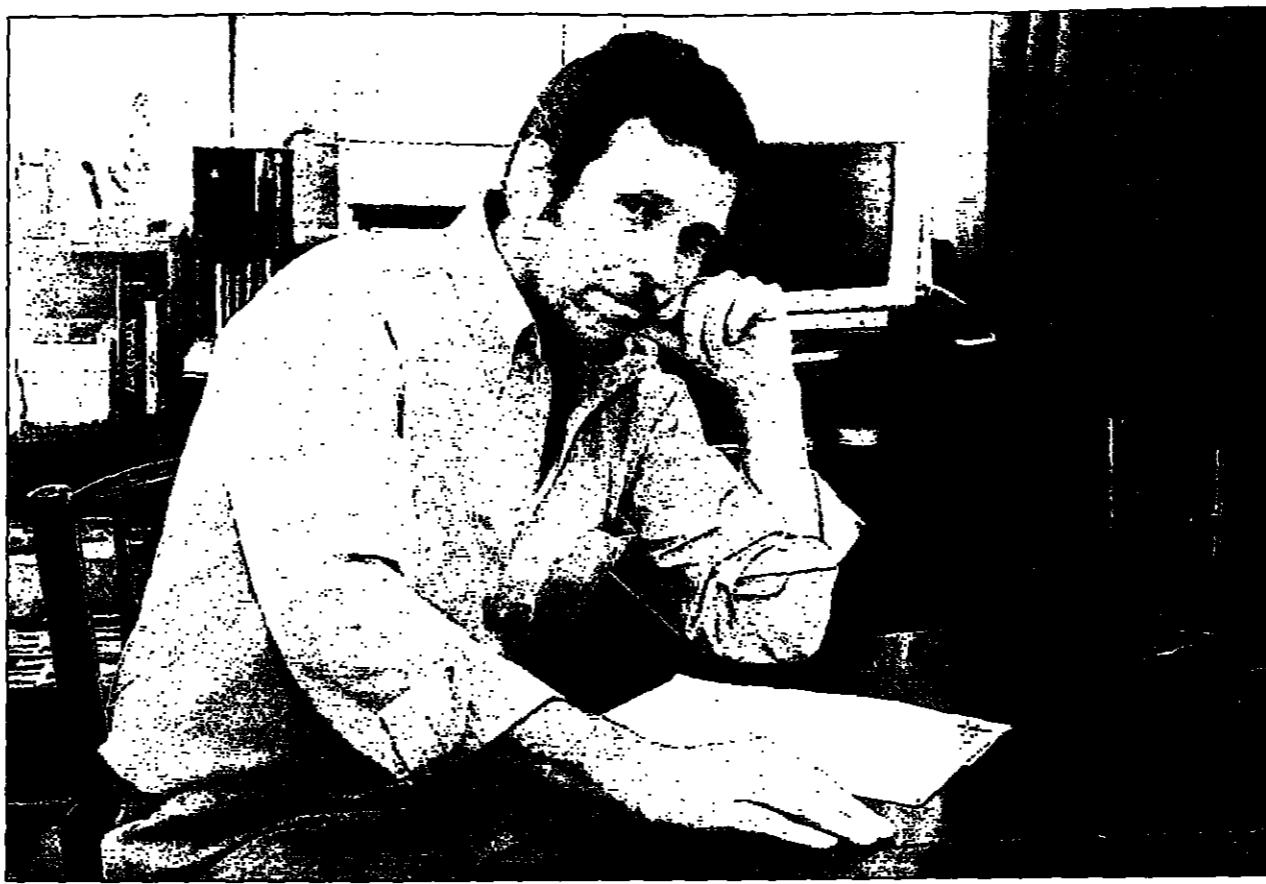
Mr Crossland, 39, gave up his full-time job as director of one of the Unipart companies in 1995

to look after his children when his wife, Alexandra, died of cancer. The bereavement al-

lowance for the tax year 1996/97 was £1,790. He was told the allowance was available only to widows "because generally speaking, the financial problems are greater for a woman than a man. This is because the husband is usually the main breadwinner so the loss of his income has greater effect."

Mr Crossland works part-

time when his children — Emma, 13, Peter, 10, and Alice, 6 — are at school. He said: "I find this rule deeply offensive



Kevin Willis: "It seems unfair that children should suffer because they lose their mother not their father"

to woman, because it says their economic contribution is worthless. It's a great injustice to the memory of my wife. The present policy places a higher value on the life of a man, and in reality says that in the UK a woman's life is worthless."

Realistically it could take

five years for the claims to be decided. Labour have pledged to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law, which

would enable British courts

here to look at such claims.

The Child Poverty Action

Group says virtually every

European country provides

such benefits equally to widowers and widows. Only Britain, Switzerland and the

Czech Republic do not.

CPAG's legal officer David

Thomas said: "Based on re-

cent cases from the Human

Rights court, we believe we

have a very strong case.

However, rather than force

Kevin to take his case all the

way to Strasbourg, we would

like to see who is in power

after the election change the

rules to reflect the reality of

modern life."

The CPAG says that women

now make up 45 per cent of the

UK workforce, and that mar-

ried women bring in nearly a quarter of

households. Even if Treasury

estimates of the cost of

equalisation are accurate, the

action group argues that the

women cannot justify the dis-

crimination. It points out that

other state benefits exist for

widowers in financial need,

such as income support and

family credit, which cannot

justify the discrimination be-

tween the sexes. The Cam-

aign for Widowed Fathers'

Benefits estimates that if the

law was changed, about

20,000 men would be entitled

to claim, with many more

eligible for the lump sum

payment and the separate

widow's pension.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New rule means 25 weddings invalid

At least 25 couples who married in the Irish Republic will have to go through the ceremonies again because they failed to abide by a new three-month notification rule (An-dre Magee writes).

They were supposed to register their intention to marry at least three months before the ceremony. However, bureaucracy and the new rules got the better of them and they ignored the legislation or completed forms with the wrong registrars.

The Government has declared their marriages invalid. The only way they can ensure that they are legally wed is by going through the ceremony again.

The couples have fallen foul of the 1995 Family Law Act which compels couples to notify the local registrar in writing of their intention to marry. Previously, a couple had to notify only the parish priest.

Couples are exempt for the three-month ruling only if a judge grants them a special dispensation. Eithne Fitzgerald, a junior minister, said considerable steps had been taken to inform the public of the changes. "The couples walked into the situation with their eyes open," she said.

Police on guard against hooligans

A nationwide police operation is under way to stop football hooligans rampaging across Europe when England competes in World Cup and friendly matches this summer. Officers fear hooligans will strike in Germany. Poland and France when England plays four matches in 11 days. A source said hooligans could be planning a series of battles when England play Poland in Katowice on May 31. From June 3 England take part in a four-nation competition in France against France, Italy and Brazil.

Violent prisoner sues for assault

A high-risk prisoner who is serving four life sentences is suing the Home Office for damages after complaining of rough treatment by warders. Anthony Steele, 31, who has tried to murder two inmates and assaulted prison officers, said that he had been left "hurting all over. I accept that I have been very, very violent, but that doesn't give them the right to do what they did to me," he told the Mayors and City of London County Court. The case continues.

School raffles car for teacher

A school is to raffle a car so it can replace a teacher lost because of budget cuts. Governors at Kirkburton Church of England first school, near Huddersfield in west Yorkshire, hope to raise £20,000 and restore the staff to four for the 105 pupils. The cut imposed last year by Kirklees council meant that Kirkburton's four classes of 25 pupils were reduced to three of 35. Joyce Worsfold, the headmistress, said: "There is no point in blaming the Government, because that does not help the children."

IRA fugitive held after 14 years

A convicted IRA bomber who escaped from the Maze prison 14 years ago was arrested yesterday at his home in the Irish Republic, where he had been living in full view of the law. Dermot Joseph McNally, one of Britain's most wanted terrorists, was arrested in Sligo by the Irish police following a request from the Royal Ulster Constabulary, who wish to extradite him. McNally had been serving three life sentences for bombing in Northern Ireland when he escaped with 37 other prisoners during a mass breakout.

never have access to. "The royal collection began with Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, the second son of Queen Victoria. When financially embarrassed, he sold it to his elder brother the Prince of Wales, the future Edward VII. Edward added examples from all the colonies, dependent territories and later dominions which fell under his aegis. The collecting was continued by George V and filled 325 red albums when it was passed on to the Queen's father, George VI, also a keen philatelist.

Leading article, page 23

Maker of new contraceptive admits to 450 pregnancies

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE makers of a new contraceptive device hailed as the biggest breakthrough in family planning since the 1960s admitted last night that at least 450 women have become pregnant while using it.

The Persona, which has the backing of the Catholic Church, has been bought by more than 100,000 women since going on sale at Boots chemists last October.

The device works by measuring hormone levels in

urine to establish when a woman is at her most fertile. It includes a monitor, which displays a green light when it is safe to have sex and a red one when the user is fertile.

Unipath, the manufacturers, told BBC1's *Watchdog* Healthcheck programme, that it knew of at least 450 pregnancies and that the company has recently reduced its claimed success rate for the product from 95 to 94 per cent.

Persona was marketed as an alternative to the condom, — but family planning statis-

Woolf urges health dispute reforms

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

ENOUGH money to run a large health service trust is being spent annually on legal costs to deal with negligence claims from patients, Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, said last night.

Calling for fresh ways to settle claims for compensation, he said the present system for resolving disputes was not designed to meet the needs of health carers and their patients but the interests of the legal profession.

Lord Woolf, who last year completed a review of ways to streamline litigation, said that when his survey ended there were 20,000 claims outstanding against the NHS, some of them for more than £1 million. Over 90 per cent of the

litigants were on legal aid, so in the vast majority of cases the public purse was

paying for both sides.

The situation of those who did not qualify for legal aid was also difficult.

Equally, health carers were trapped in a nightmare situation, with hurtful allegations being made against them even though their only aim had been to help the patient. Litigation made it impossible for them to talk to the patient about what happened. "The concern is that if there is an apology or if even an explanation is given, this could be used in evidence against them or prejudice their position with the medical defence bodies."

Lord Woolf, giving the spring lecture to the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting, said that he was keen to see ways of

keeping cases out of court. There needed to be more use of the health service ombudsman and mechanisms to find out from the start what the patient wanted.

During the course of my inquiry I was told by litigants that all they were seeking was an explanation or apology, which was never forthcoming. All too often... they are forced into litigation because of the lack of communication by those representing the medical profession."

Lord Woolf said the whole process should be streamlined, with the patient notifying the defendant of the grounds of his claim at least three months before a legal action starts. That would make it possible for the health authority to investigate the claim and see whether it was worth contesting. Openness on all sides was essential.

Mother's age is more of a problem as child grows up

MEDICAL BRIEFING

THIRTY years ago, doctors thought that an ageing woman's fertility was governed by the state of her uterus, as well as her ovaries.

It was assumed that beyond a certain age her uterus was finished. It was present but old and shrivelled; it would be as incapable of action in the labour ward as an aged Cheshire Pensioner would be at the front.

This earlier generation of gynaecologists have been proved wrong. The uterus springs to life when treated with the appropriate hormones — oestrogens only in the first half of the month with progestogens in the second — analogues of those which course through her body in

her youth. The correct balance of hormones given at the right time and in the right strength, hormones such as those also used in HRT, can revitalise the uterus and its blood supply

so that it is capable of maintaining a 40-week pregnancy even if the woman is in her seventies.

Conversely, the quality of a woman's eggs, the ova, deteriorate even though she may still be ovulating regularly. Fertility in a woman in her

mid to late thirties begins to fail not because of her uterus, but because the ova are past their best. There is as yet no way of improving the quality of ova.

When Sam Abdalla, a consultant at the Lister Hospital, London, was told that a 65-year-old American woman had had a baby, he replied: "Oh my God. This is no advance, no breakthrough, for there is no technical difference between preparing a woman's uterus for an embryo whether she is 40, 50, 60, 70 or even presumably 80.

"As obstetricians we do not only have a duty, but also a legal responsibility, to look after the child's interests. Doctors have to consider what it would be like for a child still in its early teens to have to look after a mother who might well already be physically or mentally disabled. There is also of course a distinct possibility that she might have been orphaned by this age."

At the Lister hospital, 50 is the cut-off age for fertility treatment, after which any attempt to secure a pregnancy would be considered only in the most exceptional of circumstances.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Continued from page 1

be sexist. Scientific advances have made it safer for old women to become mothers and people now tend to live longer, healthier lives. To have a child around the house might help keep pensioners young at heart.

Opponents argued that fertility clinicians had a duty to consider the future of the child. Dr Abraham Munabi, an infertility specialist from Pennsylvania, said: "At our clinic we have a maximum age of 52, which is the average age for the onset of menopause. Women must leave the programme when they reach 55. Let's be realistic: we do not want children to

grow up orphans." Dr Munabi said that he turns away two couples a month from his clinic for age reasons.

Would-be patients often lie about their age, and the clinic makes discreet checks. In the California case, the mother reportedly provided documents which assured doctors that she was in her 50s.

If the California couple are prosperous, they stand a chance of becoming even richer. Lucrative offers were last night being touted by media organisations keen to have their exclusive story. But for the moment, it seemed, the couple are happy to settle for the bounty of parenthood and the joys of the soiled nappy.

If they do feel aggrieved, they were not showing it yesterday at the Stamp '97 exhibition at Wembley where some of the Queen's prize specimens were on display for the first time.

£175,000 for fashion designer after gas fire leak destroyed career



By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A FASHION designer who was forced to give up his career after suffering carbon monoxide poisoning from his council flat gas fire over several years has received £175,000 damages.

Allan McCrae, 46, a council tenant with the London Borough of Camden, discovered in 1993 that his gas fire was defective after experiencing loss of memory and lack of concentration. He lodged a claim for compensation in which his lawyers said the fire had never been

serviced or inspected and that the north London council, as landlord, had failed in its contractual and statutory duty to repair and take reasonable care to see the tenant was safe from personal injury caused by defects on the premises.

Mr McCrae's medical experts concluded that he had been exposed to toxic fumes causing moderate brain damage that led to loss of concentration and memory and loss of organisational ability, which reduced his capacity to work. Earlier this month the council offered to settle his claim for £175,000 and the trial was ad-

judged until yesterday to allow time for its approval by the relevant council committee.

Mr McCrae's solicitor, Gisele Bakkenist from Leigh Day, said: "I am delighted that he has at least obtained justice. There is little doubt in my mind that of our experts that Mr McCrae would have been awarded substantial damages by the trial judge."

She said that all landlords, whether private or public authorities, now had to ensure the safety of gas installations by conducting annual safety checks and maintenance. "I hope this case will be a

warning that if the safety of tenants from this poisonous gas is not ensured, landlords will be held accountable."

Mr McCrae had a successful career in fashion design and had worked for well-known boutiques and designers, including the House of Norman Hartnell, and had set up his own studio. As his health deteriorated he turned to teaching design but that also became too difficult for him.

Stephanie Trotter, president of CO Gas Safety, a registered charity, said: "Carbon monoxide is a hidden poison. We counted from press

cuttings 65 deaths and 403 near misses from September 1995 to August 1996. We are delighted with this result and hope others will take courage to fight their cases because this will encourage the authorities to improve standards."

■ The Royal College of Nursing has won a record £380,000 in damages for a 35-year-old nurse who will never be able to work again after injuring her back.

The nurse, who does not want her identity disclosed, fractured her spine in 1990 in a work accident caused by a failure to maintain safe premises. She is in constant pain,

unable to work for more than 10 minutes at a time or drive for half an hour. Her National Health Service employer has agreed to pay £380,000 in an out-of-court settlement, the highest sum the college has won for a back-injured nurse.

Patrick Blundy, legal adviser to the college, said: "No amount of money can compensate this nurse for the fact that she is now unable to practise her chosen profession. There is a clear message here for employers: take care of your staff and ensure that your premises are safe to work in or you will pay the price."

'I called them in for the match,' says mother. 'They moved and the ground disappeared'

Soccer saves children as garden falls into crater

By PAUL WILKINSON

TWO children escaped death by minutes when a 100ft-deep hole opened up in the garden of their home.

Ten-year-old Charlotte Britton and her brother Charles, eight, had just cleared away their buckets and spades from sandpit when the ground slipped into a water-filled hole.

As their mother Jane, 31, called them into the semi-detached house in Ripon, North Yorkshire, to watch Manchester United play Borussia Dortmund in the

European Cup on Wednesday night, the garden fell away from under them. "I went out to call them in and the ground started to move under me," she said. "I just shouted to the children. They moved and the ground just disappeared."

"There was a roar and a hole 70ft across and 100ft deep appeared just yards in front of us. If I had not been there to get my children they would have been dead now. Thankfully Charlie is a Manchester United fan and he had told me to call him when the match started."

A few hours later the family's double garage fell into the hole. "I called the emergency services and we were given just two minutes to find some clothes and get out of the house," Mrs Britton said. Other families in the street were also told to move out.

"I have been told it is unsafe and I can't go back in," she said. "The experts that have been here say the whole house is likely to collapse."

John Kirkman, Harrogate District Council's chief building control officer, said: "People have been instructed



The remains of the garage hanging over the hole that suddenly opened up in the front garden of Jane Britton's home in North Yorkshire

to move out of their homes in the interests of their own safety. We are monitoring the situation and until insurance engineers and independent engineers can assess the level of danger they cannot move back in."

The collapse is thought to have been caused by a geological fault in the area, possibly

caused by mining for gypsum. Mrs Britton said that holes had appeared in the garden before and that she was in dispute with insurers over responsibility for the damage. The matter was due to go before the High Court in four weeks.

Now Mrs Britton and her partner, Eddie Newcombe, a

butcher, fear they will not be able to move back in. "I don't even know if the house will still be here when the case starts. I have always been afraid that something like this might happen. When I am in the house, every little sound sets me on edge and I start fearing the worst."

North Yorkshire Police said:

Ripon. Within weeks, part of the land in front of the house had collapsed, leaving a hole 20ft deep and 10ft wide.

Since that first collapse, the ground has opened five more times and the hole has been filled with hardcore. Insurers have refused to pay for damage to the house, claiming it to be a natural disaster.

Dartmoor woman is found murdered

By A STAFF REPORTER

A WOMAN was found murdered at her thatched cottage on Dartmoor yesterday.

Police did not immediately confirm her identity, but she is believed to be Susan Faux, 47, who lived at Mexworthy with her husband, William, a builder, and grown-up daughter, Carrie. The woman, who had head injuries, was found by her daughter at the cottage, called Thimble Hall.

Police, who set up an incident room at Newton Abbot, made house-to-house inquiries in the village, which is four miles from Dartmoor prison. A police helicopter was called to the scene. The murder inquiry is being led by the deputy head of Devon and Cornwall CID, Detective Superintendent John Smith.

Neighbours said they had heard and seen nothing suspicious and did not realise there was anything wrong until police flooded into the village.

One friend of the family, who asked not to be named, said: "We do not know what is going on. All we have seen is a lot of blue flashing lights."

"It is a lovely house on the edge of the village but its name gives a slightly grand impression. It is not like a baronial hall or a stately home but it is a very nice large thatched cottage. It would be a real shock for everyone who knows her if anything has happened to Susan."

Neighbours grab driver who killed girl on pavement

By RICHARD DUCE

WITNESSES to the death of a nine-year-old girl "arrested" the driver of a stolen car after it hit the child as she played on the pavement.

They said the 16-year-old youth staggered from the car clutching a can of cider after the Vauxhall Nova knocked down and killed Teleri West and seriously injured Sean Rogers, 14, her friend and neighbour, outside their homes in the Cardiff suburb of Morganstown.

The girl's mother, Helen West, 32, is four months pregnant. Christopher Lundergan, 26, Teleri's stepfather, said yesterday: "She used to play on the pavement in front of the house all the time. Her mother and I heard a loud bang at about nine o'clock last night and ran out. We saw Teleri lying face down in the

else. We have told Teleri's class as tenderly as possible and a few of her close friends are very upset. She was a lovely, happy girl who had a lot of good friends in the school."

Sean Rogers was said last night said to be a satisfactory condition at Cardiff Royal Infirmary with leg and hip injuries.

Superintendent Mike Pent, head of South Wales Police traffic division, said: "This is a dreadful tragedy and we would like to express our sympathy to the parents." The car had been stolen from Cardiff city centre earlier in the day. The driver had later failed a breath test.

Last night, a 16-year-old was being held for questioning about Teleri's death.



Teleri West was playing when the car hit her

Inquest told blaze hero 'got a buzz' out of fires

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A MAN who was hailed a hero for saving his four children from a blaze in which his wife died was described at an inquest yesterday as a compulsive liar obsessed by fire.

Patrick Holt, 40, had wept as he denied that he deliberately started the fire that killed his wife, Susan, 37. He was accused by a lawyer acting for Derbyshire police of being an attention-seeker who got a "buzz" out of starting fires.

His brother and sister said Mr Holt was a compulsive liar who wanted to "play the hero" by saving his family.

John Pollard, the Coroner, sitting in Stockport, recorded an open verdict. He said: "It beggars belief that this was anything other than a deliberate fire."

At one stage yesterday, he told Mr Holt to spend a 45-minute adjournment thinking carefully about the truth. "You have a lot of problems," he said. "You would not want to add perjury to those problems."

The fire last October was the third in eight months at the Holt's home in Glossop, Derbyshire. Mrs Holt's sisters said that three months before her death she had asked the council to rehouse her because she feared that her husband was going to set the house on fire. Mr Holt's first wife, Jacqueline King, described how she escaped a fire in their home 20 years ago.

Enigmatic variation sounds out Elgar

By TIM JONES

MUSIC-LOVERS attending this year's Malvern Elgar Festival will be able to enjoy the chamber music of Schubert, Beethoven and Brahms — but not the large-scale works of the composer after whom it is named.

Malvern's Winter Gardens theatre and hall complex is being renovated, so the festival is to be held in the much smaller Priory church. The artistic director, William Boughton, said: "We are not doing any Elgar because artistically the music doesn't sit well in the Priory and we are forced to use 30 or 48-piece

orchestras. Elgar really needs 100 to 80 pieces to do him justice."

"Acoustically, he is far too great a composer and we are not willing to reduce him to tokenism." Instead they would be using the festival to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Schubert and the 100th anniversary of the death of Brahms.

Although Elgar's works will not feature in the festival, which begins in May, his name will appear on promotional material. Mr Boughton explained: "We want to create an identity for the festival and it would be meaningless dropping the name for one year. Admittedly, it does

seem strange, but events have been rather out of our control. I am sure people will enjoy him."

John Harcup, of the Elgar Society, said: "I don't see how one can have an Elgar festival without Elgar. It is incredible. I can understand why Elgar's most famous works would be unsuitable for the Priory but lesser-known pieces should be performed. He made his name here and we should be honouring him. They have missed an ideal opportunity to stage lesser-known works which would have proved very interesting."

Sir Edward Elgar (1857-1934) lived for many years in Malvern and died there.

The new Armada 1500 range from Compaq — highly featured all-in-one notebooks at notably low prices. Apart from core features like a fast Intel Pentium® processor and 16 MB RAM, these notebooks (including the Armada 1510) boast a wealth of fully integrated extras such as an AC adaptor. The

Armada 1520D even incorporates a 10 speed CD-ROM. Quite simply you get everything you need in one package at a cracking little price.

For your brochure pack please phone:

0990 50 00 20



pentium®

Prices quoted are typical buying prices. Photograph shows Armada 1520D. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation.

A SINGLE VOTE TO END A SINGLE CURRENCY

A SINGLE CURRENCY WOULD BE IRREVERSIBLE.

A SINGLE CURRENCY WOULD SIGNAL THE END OF SOVEREIGN BRITAIN.

**A SINGLE CURRENCY MEANS INTEREST RATES
AND YOUR MORTGAGE RATE WOULD BE SET IN FRANKFURT.**

A SINGLE CURRENCY IS THE GREEN LIGHT FOR BUILDING A FEDERAL EUROPE.

**THE VAST MAJORITY OF CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATES
HAVE RULED OUT JOINING A SINGLE CURRENCY.**

Next Thursday is your only chance to ensure Britain remains an independent sovereign nation. You have a single vote to end a single currency. Make it count. Vote Conservative.

**MORE TRADE
LESS INTERFERENCE.**
This is the way ahead for Britain as a part of a free Europe.
Europe - Yes Trade - Yes
A single currency in a single country called Europe - No

CONSERVATIVE 

**WAKE UP TO THE FACTS BRITAIN.
VOTE CONSERVATIVE ON MAY 1st.**

Canary Wharf neighbours lose interference case

Viewers have no right to watch TV, say law lords

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

WATCHING television is not a fundamental right, the House of Lords has ruled. Residents living near Britain's tallest office block have been barred from seeking damages for having their picture reception ruined.

The 750 residents, led by a Roman Catholic nun and community worker, had complained about more than two years of interference caused by the 790ft Canary Wharf Tower in London's Docklands. Yesterday Sister Christine Frost was critical of the ruling that missing television did not count as a nuisance in legal terms.

"Television is now almost as important a part of daily life as electricity, gas and water supplies, and people have a fundamental right to receive it," she said.

"We brought this case not just for us, but so that other people wouldn't be trampled on and treated as if they had no rights by big conglomerates. This is sad result for the little people for those who don't have money or a big voice."

One of the complainants was Rose Humphries, 72, a widow who is recovering from breast cancer. She said: "I spend a lot of time at home on my own watching television. For two years when we had

Canary Wharf Tower: residents could not watch *EastEnders* when the building blocked TV signals

the interference, I would have a picture and then suddenly it would disappear.

"I like the soaps, especially *EastEnders*, even though it is not really like life in the East End. When the picture went, I had to keep telephoning my daughter to find out what happened next."

In a unanimous judgment by five law lords, Lord Goff of Chieveley conceded that television "must provide a great distraction and relief from the circumscribed nature of the lives" of aged, lonely and bedridden people. However, that the deprivation of tele-

vision signals — as opposed to 5 per cent by most buildings — because of its flat stainless steel cladding and metalised windows. The television reception for many local residents was disrupted from 1989 until the installation of a new transmitter in 1992.

The residents' case was funded by Legal Aid, and costs ran into hundreds of thousands of pounds. Sally Moore, a solicitor with Leigh Day representing the residents, said she thought that her clients would feel that the justice system had let them down: "The ruling is basically equating the right to receive a television signal with the right to have a view or light through your window. It gives no more protection than that."

"What it is saying is that, if your television signals are fine, and then somebody comes and puts a great big building in front of the signal, then don't look to the law to protect you."

A spokeswoman for Canary Wharf Limited welcomed the ruling. She said: "As a developer, we well recognise the responsibilities to the local community, and when we became aware of the problem with television reception we were instrumental in arranging with the London Docklands Development Corporation and the BBC for a repeater transmitter to be installed."

Addicts are urged to kick the habit

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

TELEVISION viewers were urged yesterday to store their sets in the coldest and most uncomfortable room in their homes at the start of Turn Off TV Week.

The campaign by the pressure group, White Dot, aims to help television addicts to quit their habit for a week and encourage them to devote leisure time to more creative activities. David Burke, its founder, said the hours spent by most people in front of the box was eroding the quality of family life and undermining society. "A lot of people say, 'I watch a little bit of television, but only the good things.' Well, it's been shown that Britons watch an average of 3½ hours a day, so either somebody's watching an awful lot, or people are lying."

"A week without television would break

the habit of a lifetime and help people to rebuild their lives," he added. Only one in 100 British homes manages without a television set. He advised viewers to make a list of all the hobbies that would interest them and to take them up. "Then you can become the person you tell everyone you are."

A similar campaign in the United States met with limited success: only about three million people and 25,000 schools participated in a week-long "strike" by viewers.

The television industry dismissed the campaign yesterday as a gimmick, pointing out that Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, had argued powerfully in favour of television as a force for good. In 1995 she told the Royal Television

Society's biennial conference in Cambridge that television provided a vital "window on the world" to viewers by informing them of important social issues.

John Woodward, the chief executive of the Producers' Alliance for Cinema and Television, which represents programme-makers, said the campaign was "absolute nonsense. Television is the most important force for education and communication in Western civilisation. There may be one of two countries where it could do some good not to watch television for a week, but the UK is not one of them because the quality of our programming is so high."

Radio and television, pages 50, 51

the habit of a lifetime and help people to rebuild their lives," he added. Only one in 100 British homes manages without a television set. He advised viewers to make a list of all the hobbies that would interest them and to take them up. "Then you can become the person you tell everyone you are."

A similar campaign in the United States met with limited success: only about three million people and 25,000 schools participated in a week-long "strike" by viewers.

The television industry dismissed the campaign yesterday as a gimmick, pointing out that Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, had argued powerfully in favour of television as a force for good. In 1995 she told the Royal Television

Society's biennial conference in Cambridge that television provided a vital "window on the world" to viewers by informing them of important social issues.

John Woodward, the chief executive of the Producers' Alliance for Cinema and Television, which represents programme-makers, said the campaign was "absolute nonsense. Television is the most important force for education and communication in Western civilisation. There may be one of two countries where it could do some good not to watch television for a week, but the UK is not one of them because the quality of our programming is so high."

Radio and television, pages 50, 51

the habit of a lifetime and help people to rebuild their lives," he added. Only one in 100 British homes manages without a television set. He advised viewers to make a list of all the hobbies that would interest them and to take them up. "Then you can become the person you tell everyone you are."

A similar campaign in the United States met with limited success: only about three million people and 25,000 schools participated in a week-long "strike" by viewers.

The television industry dismissed the campaign yesterday as a gimmick, pointing out that Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, had argued powerfully in favour of television as a force for good. In 1995 she told the Royal Television



Alwyn Philips: "I didn't say I was married. It didn't come up in conversation"

New love from dating agency ended with a brief encounter

BY ADRIAN LEE

A WOMAN decided on a swift revenge when she discovered that the new love she met through a dating agency was already married. Margaret Ruddlesden reached for her sewing kit and a pair of his underpants.

Ms Ruddlesden, 47, an occupational therapist, then confronted Alwyn Philips's wife, handing her the underpants on which she had sewn the words: "Lying bastard". Her next visit was to her solicitors, to seek advice on suing the agency. Close Encounters of the Best Kind.

Ms Ruddlesden of Shirehampton, Bristol, maintains that it assured her Mr Philips was divorced. The agency says it told her the Philipses were merely estranged.

She said: "I joined the agency to find love and I ended up having my heart broken. I was interviewed in great depth by the agency



Margaret Ruddlesden: she wants to sue agency

and I presumed the same thing happened with other members."

The two dated for three weeks. Mr Philips, also 47, sent her red roses. By her own admission, she was smitten. His double life emerged when she discovered his address from driving documents.

Yesterday Mr Philips, who has two children, was unrec-

ognised. Speaking from his home in Winterbourne, Bristol, the frozen-food worker said: "I don't feel as if I have lied to anyone. I didn't tell Margaret I was still married as it didn't come up in the conversation."

"My wife and I are leading separate lives. We had agreed on a divorce long before I joined the dating agency. I joined to meet someone new and rebuild my life, but the relationship with Margaret was not working so I told her to cool it. She couldn't accept it and started causing trouble. My estranged wife was indifferent when Margaret handed her the pants."

Tim Holmes, who founded Close Encounters, said the agency would consider re-funding Ms Ruddlesden's £417 joining fee as a goodwill gesture. He added: "We try to take every possible precaution. Mr Philips told us he was separated from his wife and we took his word for it."

Writing songs is therapy to me, says Sir Paul

BY A STAFF REPORTER

MUSIC gave Sir Paul McCartney the strength to cope with the trauma of his wife's illness, he said. It was a form of therapy that stopped him "going round the bend" while Lady McCartney underwent treatment in her fight against breast cancer.

In an interview in *The Times* today, he says: "Music has always been a consolation for me. When you get the teenage blues, the great remedy is to write a song. I wrote *Ebony and Ivory* after a little marital tiff with Linda. It was like 'Why can't we get it together — our piano can'."

"If you asked a lot of songwriters, you'd find that what happens is that they have a bad day so they skulk off to hide from everyone. Instead of lying on a psychiatrist's couch they talk to themselves in a song. I do that all the time."

"Linda's not been well the past year or so, although she's doing very well now. It's very difficult when you get that kind of situation in your life. I'm sensitive enough not to repress it all the time, and that helps you to deal with it."

His latest album, *Flaming Pie*, to be released on May 12, is streaked with melancholy. It features *Little Willow*, which was written after Maureen Starkey, Ringo Starr's first wife, died of cancer. "The morning I heard the news I couldn't think of anything else, so I wrote this in the hope that I could somehow convey how much I thought of her. It's certainly heartfelt."

He says half of his songs are personal and the other half are flippant throwaways, such as *Yellow Submarine*. "Some of them are very much me doing therapy with myself and half of them I'm just writing about Desmond and Molly."

"I'm sure a psychiatrist would look at it and find that Desmond and Molly are just both halves of my alter-ego or something. The truth about it is that I don't think about it. I've always seen the whole songwriting process as being magical."

Interview, page 37

Does a healthy life start with a healthy heart?

It's a question that's been asked for years. And the answer is yes. Because a healthy heart is the key to a healthy life.

At BUPA, we believe that a healthy heart is a healthy heart. That's why we've created a special service to help you keep your heart healthy. The BUPA Heart Health Service.

With the BUPA Heart Health Service, you can get a full heart health check-up, including a blood pressure test, a cholesterol test, and a glucose test. You can also get a heart health questionnaire, which will help you to identify any potential risk factors for heart disease.

And the best part is, it's all for just £8 a month. That's right, £8 a month for a full heart health check-up, including a blood pressure test, a cholesterol test, and a glucose test. And a heart health questionnaire.

So if you want to keep your heart healthy, and your life healthy, then the BUPA Heart Health Service is the way to go. Call now and get your first month free.

Call 0800 33 55 55 Ref: 5957

Call now and get your first month free. 0800 33 55 55 Ref: 5957. *Subject to certain conditions and restrictions. Please see back page for full terms and conditions. © BUPA 1997.

ADVERTISEMENT

A PERSONAL LETTER FROM PAUL SYKES

Dear Reader

There has been much media discussion over the number of Conservative candidates who have confirmed to their local electorate, in their personal manifestos, that they would not vote in favour of a European single currency.

Before the election was called and before candidates went out canvassing for support, no-one knew the overwhelming opposition on the doorstep to a single currency. Many of the candidates had already ruled out a single currency, but of course many more are now responding to what the electorate wants to hear - Conservatives do not want to abolish the pound. Conservatives do not want a single economy for the whole of Europe run from a European Central Bank. Conservatives do not want their interest rates and mortgage rates decided in Frankfurt. Conservatives do not want to give up our gold and dollar reserves, they know that a single currency is the major irreversible step to building a Federal Europe.

There is no half way house. A single currency means ultimately a single country. To achieve a single currency without ultimately having a single country would be a *world first* - there is no such thing. The people of Britain in ever increasing numbers are becoming aware of this, that is why they want us to say *no* to a single currency *now*. They do not want to wait two or three years for a woolly worded referendum from either of the main political parties.

What the people of Britain want to see is more trade with our European partners; they know that it is trade that creates peace and prosperity among nations, not politics.

I liken Chancellor Kohl to a train driver. All the time the ultimate destination of the train is a Federal Europe, but the driver slows down for the odd bend and while the passengers talk about business, trade and jobs, the train speeds up again and continues onwards towards its destination. As Chancellor Kohl himself put it, "in two years time, the process of integration will be irreversible". This is despite the fact that many surveys in Germany have shown that over 90% of its people do not want to scrap the Deutschmark and show how his political ambitions take precedence over the wishes of even his own nation.

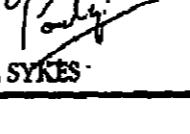
Voters at this election are receiving promises from all the major parties on tax matters, legal reforms and other changes which affect their daily lives. If we do not rule out a single currency now and the federal agenda is achieved, all these discussions and promises will be irrelevant. These decisions would all be taken by the Federal Government of Europe.

There is now an overwhelming majority of candidates in Conservative held seats who have committed themselves to opposing a single currency. The electorate now know that if a Conservative Government is re-elected, then because of the free vote given by John Major, single currency proposals would not be endorsed by the House of Commons.

Voters now have a clear choice. Vote Conservative for Britain to remain a free and independent trading nation. Vote Labour for the adoption of single currency proposals, the Social Chapter, and further surrender of political and economic control over our country's affairs.

Now that the real facts about our relationship with Europe are starting to emerge, the voice of Britain is at long last beginning to be heard. I love my country and its enduring democracy and will fight all the way to retain its sovereignty intact.

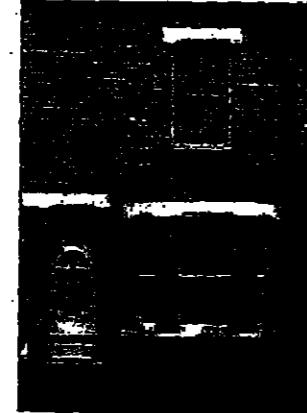
Yours faithfully



PAUL SYKES

Mother claimed rent benefit to develop £200,000 house

By PAUL WILKINSON



A WOMAN planned and built a £200,000 house while living in a housing association flat and claiming rent benefit. Jacqueline Hull used the state handover over a five-year period to help to develop Suncliffe Lodge, a five-bedroom detached home. She convinced council officials, and staff at subsidised accommodation run by the Joseph Rowntree Trust, that she was a penniless mother of three, abandoned by her husband and struggling to survive in rented housing.

In fact she was a property owner with her own business, running a slimming club. The only time she was homeless was when she sold her terraced house at a profit to reinvest in her building project. It was then that the trust provided her with a home.

The story of how Hull, 40, cheated her way from a £20,000 house in a back street in York to an imposing residence less than a mile away in Huntington unfolded during her trial at York Crown Court.

Hull made £30,000 on her terraced home, left, and built Suncliffe Lodge



where she was convicted of four specimen charges of deception.

Sentence was postponed for eight weeks after North Yorkshire Police said they were considering a request for confiscation of Hull's assets. They want to investigate her financial background and discover exactly what she owns.

Julian Coose, for the prosecution, said that, in 1985, Hull and her husband bought a terraced house in Acomb, York. Three years later he left

her and transferred sole ownership to her.

Soon afterwards she applied to the city council for housing benefit, stating that she was a tenant in the house. She filled in application forms giving false details.

She initially claimed £45 a week. When she increased the claim to £50, she said the rent had gone up, but in fact her mortgage interest had risen and she wanted the increase to cover it.

The allowances were paid

until 1993 when Hull sold the house for £55,000, pocketing more than £30,000 profit. Shortly afterwards she applied for a council house, signing documents saying that she had no assets.

The council treated her case sympathetically and with urgency. Through the Joseph Rowntree Housing Association she was allocated a homeless person's flat. The association paid the rent but, unknown to it, Hull had put the profit from the sale of her

home towards developing the building plot in Huntington. The rest of the cash came from a £70,000 mortgage based on her slimming business.

But an internal audit at York council exposed her double dealing and, by the time the new house was completed in early 1994, she had been arrested on suspicion of fraud.

Hull told the court she could not afford to move into the new property, saying: "I could not have afforded to even turn the heating on, let alone run it." She put the house up for sale with an asking price of £200,000, but eventually agreed a swap for a house valued at about £70,000 at Crambeck, between York and Malton, and cash to make up the balance.

Throughout her trial Hull maintained that she had not been dishonest, but merely followed the instructions of her mother when filling in forms and making applications. She claimed that the plot of land at Huntington was owned by her mother and that, after she had repaid all her loans, she was again penniless.



Jacqueline Hull convinced officials she was homeless

Complaints about rail reliability rise by 56%

By A STAFF REPORTER

COMPLAINTS by rail passengers in southern England in the year to March were 56 per cent up on the previous year and the highest of the decade. A total of 1,024 complaints were received by the South of England Rail Users' Consultative Committee.

The committee's latest figures include February and March when South West Trains cancelled 39 trains a day because of driver shortages. The committee said complaints about reliability had shown a significant increase in the final quarter of the year.

It also blamed SWT and another privatised company, Connex South Eastern, for an increase in complaints about information at stations.

The anti-privatisation group, Save Our Railways, which released the figures, said yesterday that the level of complaints showed privatisation was not working. Keith Bill, the national secretary, said: "Commuters are sick of seeing companies making fatcat profits while quality services deteriorate."

Big game hunts are rigged, says TV sleuth

By MICHAEL HORNSEY

LIONS, tigers, gorillas and other wild animals, many of them endangered and legally protected, are being killed in rigged hunts, costing thousands of pounds, for the pleasure of wealthy American and European tourists, a television investigation claims.

In film from South Africa a licentious lions is shown being separated from her bewildered cub and shot by a German hunter only a few yards away from them on the other side of a wire fence. It takes ten shots and several minutes for the animal to die.

The footage is contained in *Making A Killing*, the first in a new series of *The Cook Report*, to be transmitted by ITV on May 6, in which the veteran investigator Roger Cook poses as a wealthy businessman keen to shoot big game. "We discovered that if you have enough money and the right contacts, you can go and shoot any animal in the world, no matter how rare or protected by law that species may be," Cook says.

"You do not even have to be a good shot because the animals are often baited into fenced areas or drugged so they become sitting targets."

In the Mokolo Game Ranch in South Africa, Cook, using the alias of James Rogers, agrees to pay \$18,000 (£11,100) for a guaranteed opportunity to shoot a lion.

In Spain a middleman is seen offering Cook the chance of shooting gorillas in Cameroon and tigers in Malaysia.

Scientists create the eight-day petunia

By NIGEL HAWKES

GENETIC engineering has created a petunia that keeps its flowers four times longer than normal. Harry Klee, of the University of Florida, says that any type of flower could be made to last longer in the garden and in the house.

"We've had flowers that have lasted for weeks on the laboratory bench," says Dr Klee. "We're very excited about it. I think it will be important for the florist industry and for the gardener. The aim is to put the gene into varieties that the gardener will use for bedding plants."

The petunias were given a defective gene from *Arabidopsis*, a small weed-like plant that has been the subject of intensive investigation. The gene is responsible for making the receptor for ethylene, a gas that ripens fruit and makes flowers shed their petals. The engineered plants cannot produce the receptor, the "socket" into which the ethylene plugs.

If the plants cannot sense ethylene, they do not shed their flowers. In laboratory experiments, Dr Klee reports in *Nature Biotechnology*, petunias which would lose their flowers in two days lasted eight.

So far, Dr Klee has grown the plants only in the greenhouse. Permission is needed from American regulatory authorities before genetically modified plants can be grown out of doors, and it is likely to be some years before the plants are available in garden centres.

Satellite data confirm supercontinent theory

SATELLITE data have helped to fill in the blanks in the history of Antarctica (Nigel Hawkes writes).

The observations made by the European Space Agency's satellite ERS-1 confirm the existence of a missing piece of the jigsaw that once made up the supercontinent of Gondwanaland 180 million years ago. Today's continents can be put together to recreate Gondwanaland, but only if an

extra piece, called the Belingshausen Plate, is used to fill a gap where New Zealand broke away from Antarctica. It is assumed that the missing piece must have fused with the Antarctic plate, but proving it has been impossible.

Now, thanks to ERS-1 data, it is reported in *Science* that seabed topology provides the first clear proof that Antarctica was in two pieces 60 million years ago.

Renewing your home insurance in April or May and want to save money?

- * Saga - The specialists in insurance for people aged 50 and over
- * Comprehensive, low cost cover
- * A service that is direct and trouble free
- * Discount for secure homes

Call free today! **SAGA**
Services Ltd

0800 414 525 Quoting reference TM4715

Lines open Monday to Friday 8.30am - 7pm, Saturdays 9am - 1pm

Saga Services Ltd would like to send you information about services provided by other Saga companies and other Saga brands to those companies to assist them in doing so.

How many extra orders will you drum up with BT's new Freefone offer?



DIAL-A-
BLOOM
0800 121 951

Up to 7½ hours of free calls every month, for 3 months.

A BT Freefone number can attract three times as many customers. If that's three times as much extra business. And if that's not enough

to persuade you to set one up, apply by July 21st (for connection by August 31st) and BT will give your business up to 7½ hours

of Freefone calls, free. Every month for three months. So not only

are calls free to your customers, they're free to you too. Blooming

marvellous. For more information on Freefone numbers and details of

this offer call BT Business Connections on Freefone 0800 800 800.

BT

N.
ROPE
IS
LADE
ERENCE
Trade
in a single
Europe
IN.
1st

Warning of child malnutrition

Stores accused of promoting bad diets among poor

By ROBIN YOUNG

MANY British children are threatened with malnutrition in the next century and many people on low incomes are eating more poorly than they were at the start of the 1980s, according to two reports published today.

Supermarket chains are accused of contributing to the degradation of poor people's diets by one of the reports, from the National Food Alliance. A survey of special lines in leading supermarkets found that most items being promoted were fatty and sugary processed foods.

Some had no nutrition information on the labels and those that did often failed to give details about the sugar or saturated fat content. The best bargains, according to the report's author, Tim Lobstein, were usually bulk buys, which were only of use to those with ready money, a car for transport and space for storage.

Lack of money, inadequate shopping facilities and poor transport were the main causes of food poverty in Britain, according to the briefing paper. It says that poor

diet is not a result of ignorance or recklessness.

The hardest hit among low-income groups, it says, are women, particularly those with young children. Young people and the elderly are also badly affected. While high-income families eat healthier foods such as low-fat milk, wholemeal bread, fresh fish and fresh fruit and vegetables, low-income families eat more fat, sugar and salt and less of the essential nutrients, the paper says, arguing that diet explains why poor people have greater risk of dying prematurely from high-blood pressure, heart disease or stroke.

In a separate report, the famine relief charity Save the Children gives a warning that increasing numbers of children in Britain will be at risk of malnutrition in the next century unless urgent action is taken.

Its report shows that poorer families living in deprived areas are unable to give their children the food they need because they do not have access to a good variety of food.

Women living on estates in

London, Glasgow, Coventry, Sunderland and Belfast had incomes that, despite their resourcefulness and best efforts, would not stretch to a balanced diet for their children, the report says. Without access to supermarkets selling fresh foods at reasonable prices, many women reported missing meals themselves so that their children should not go hungry.

Mike Aaronson, Save the Children's director-general, said yesterday: "It is shocking that we are facing the spectre of child malnutrition here. Lack of money, difficulty reaching decent affordable food and lack of safety nets are key factors. We call on the Government to make a firm commitment to develop clear policies which will build on low-income families' efforts to feed their children properly."

□ *"If they don't eat a healthy diet it's their own fault": Myths about food and low income*, Dr Tim Lobstein (National Food Alliance, 511 Worship Street, EC2A 2BH; £20)

□ *Out of the Frying Pan: The true cost of feeding a family on a low income* (Save the Children, 17 Grove Lane, London, SE5 8RD; in return for donation)



Eating without stopping: on average, Britons eat a hamburger every five days and spend £41 a year on fast food

Britain is fast-food capital of Europe

BRITAIN spends more on fast food than any of the other main European countries, according to market research (Robin Young writes). Mintel estimates that Britons will spend almost £2.5 billion on hamburgers, pizza and chicken meals sold through fast-food chains this year, an average of £41 per head.

That compares with an estimated expenditure of £29 per head in France, £20 in Germany and £11 in Spain. The Italians come bottom of the fast-food league, spending only £3 per head.

Hamburgers dominate the fast-food market in all five countries, particularly in France, where they account for 88 per cent of fast-food sales. The proportion is only marginally smaller in Italy and Germany (86 per cent and 85 per cent

respectively). In Britain and Spain sales are more evenly divided between hamburgers and pizzas, while chicken takes a minor share. In Italy sales of fast-food chicken are almost non-existent.

The survey's findings equate to the average Briton eating a hamburger every five days, or two pieces of fried

chicken every three weeks, the researchers say.

Hamburgers are relatively cheaper in Britain than any of the other countries surveyed, with McDonald's and Burger King competing aggressively for market share. McDonald's British profits were £45 million in 1995, compared with a £40 million profit from 21,000 stores in 101 countries of just under £1 billion.

Chris Butcher, Mintel's leisure analyst, said yesterday: "Fast food is benefiting from the increasing trend towards snacking and convenience foods. Britain is the fast-food capital of Europe. The success of fast food in general lies in the standardised menus, where quality, quantity and price are guaranteed."

□ *European Fast Food* (Mintel: £495)

Council sunlamps 'safer' for the tanorexics

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE risk of contracting skin cancer from sunbeds is far greater in private health clubs than at council leisure centres, a skin expert says today. Sunbeds available in the commercial sector were said to emit a significantly greater level of dangerous ultraviolet rays.

The warning by Dr Andrew Wright, a consultant dermatologist from Bradford, comes as the Imperial Cancer Research Fund is highlighting the risks of "tanorexics" — suffered by sunbed addicts whose desire for a permanent tan leaves them with premature wrinkles, a leathery appearance, fragile, thin skin and a heightened risk of skin cancer.

Dr Wright tested 50 sunbeds and found that there was a threefold variation in the output of ultraviolet A. Overall, the levels in the 33 in council-run establishments were much lower.

Councils are being advised to remove sunbeds because of mounting evidence that they can cause serious skin cancers. However, in a letter to the *British Medical Journal*, Dr Wright says: "Without further education of the public in the potential danger of sunbeds, their removal from local authority premises will drive those who wish to use them into the private sector, where the dangers may be greater."

About 11 per cent of women and 7 per cent of men use indoor tanning equipment. The Imperial Cancer Research Fund says that a tenth of them are in danger of becoming "tanorexics", using a sunbed more than 30 times a year.

Dr Veronique Patel, consultant dermatologist at the Royal London Hospital, said that many women, particularly in urban areas, liked to keep a constant tan: "These women have had a tanned skin for so many years now that they cannot give it up, even when you tell them it is dangerous. They get really miserable when you tell them they should stop, and most of them can't."

In a new fact sheet for the summer, the fund warns that 30 minutes on a sunbed will give the equivalent dose of ultraviolet A radiation as a full day on the beach. This type of radiation is the main kind emitted by sunbeds and was believed to be safe until recently.

The fund says its research shows that there is no safe level of use for sunbeds. While not calling for a ban, it wants people to understand the risks. The safest cure for tanorexia, it says, is a dye to tint the skin, used in conjunction with a very high protection sun cream.

Transition of HIV to Aids is speeding up

By IAN MURRAY

HIV has become more aggressive in the 1990s, with infected people progressing to Aids twice as fast on average than in the past.

A study of 285 patients infected between 1985 and 1995 has shown that those who contracted the disease after December 1989 had a higher probability of declining in their immunity system and began suffering from Aids sooner than those who were infected before that date.

The research, published today in the *British Medical Journal*, involved regular testing of patients who tested positive but had been negative at some time in the previous 12 months.

The patients included 208 men and 87 women, aged between 17 and 61 of whom 163 were drug injectors, 64 male homosexuals and 56 heterosexuals. The research showed that age, sex, social background, or the way in which a person became infected, made no difference to the findings.

Pig diseases will push up pork price

By ROBIN YOUNG

PRICES for bacon, ham and pork are bound to rise shortly because of outbreaks of swine fever in Holland and foot and mouth disease in Taiwan.

British supermarkets say that so far they have absorbed the increased cost of the international surge in pig meat prices but small butchers have had to increase prices of bacon and pork by about 10 per cent.

Advertised promotions this week include:

Asda: rump steak £6.49 kg, pork chops £2.99, frozen premium cod fillets in batter £2.85 for 600g, cherry tomatoes 49p for 227g, broccoli 59p lb, raspberries 99p for 1kg.

Co-op: steaming steak £2.84 kg, turkey thigh joint with herb stuffing £2.49 for 800g. Cherry Valley crisp Polenta dust £4.59 for 400g, asparagus tips £1.49 for 100g, South African sweet potato top lb, vintage Stilton £6.49 kg, garlic cabbages £1.09 for 907g, pitta breads 59p for eight.

Harrods: Thai pork ribs £4.50 kg, grilled vegetables £2.29 for 100g, pumpkin tortelloni £1.99 for 100g, Culetefina parma ham £5.99 for 100g, Brieche Sartene goats cheese £3.99 each.

Iceland: chicken quarter poulard £1.99 for four, part-boned chicken breasts £3.99 for 1.5kg, roast chicken legs £1.19 for 283g, cod fillet fish fingers £1.39 for 16, rainbow trout £2.99 for 800g, whole beans 74p for 907g, garden peas £1.49 for 1.8kg.

Kwik Save: Ross tendergrill steaks £1.67 for six, Lion mixed herbs 33g, Shloer £1.39 lb, Anchor butter 61p for 250g, Lurpak butter 78p for 250g.

Marks & Spencer: chicken breast portions £2.99 for four, quiche lorraine £1.49 for 400g, haddock fillets in light crisp breadcrumb £2.99 for four, Tuscan extra virgin

olive oil £2.99 for 500ml, strawberries £1.99 for 500g, NZ Cox apples £1.59 for six.

Morrisons: beef brisket £1.49 lb, frying steak £3.28 kg, turkey steak £4.38 kg, mackerel 85p lb, plaice fillet £2.39 lb, prepared lobster lettuce 79p for 250g, large oranges 69p for six, Sun Red seedless grapes 99p lb.

Safeway: frying steak £6.49 kg, medium chicken £1.89 kg, rainbow trout £3.49 for four (850g), unsmoked bacon steaks 69p for 200g, beef park pies 99p for four, mature Davidstow cheddar £1.99 lb, corned beef 24p 4lb.

Sainsbury's: fresh NZ leg of lamb £2.39 kg, boneless rolled pork shoulder roast £2.79 kg, meat loaf in gravy £1.65 for 454g, turkey breast steaks £2.39 for four (450g), smoked haddock fillet £1.88 lb, tomatoes 79p for 12, carrots 29p for 500g, prepacked iceberg lettuce 79p for 2kg.

Tesco: topside £4.69 kg, pork loin steaks £4.99 kg, lamb chops £7.99 kg, haddock fillet £1.95 lb, golden trout £1.89 lb, dressed Cromer crab £2.49 each, asparagus £1.59 butter, corn on the cob 99p for two, Packham pears 39p lb, large Calis melons £1.69 each.

Waitrose: eight spiced pork sausages £7.70, £1.35, diced veal £2.49 for 340g, diced braising beef £2.59 for 500g, free-range chickens up to 2.3 kg £2.99, frozen petit pois 99p for 2lb, red onions 69p lb, beansprouts 49p for 350g, cauliflower 49p, avocado pears 99p for two, Jonagold apples 45p lb.

WEEKEND SHOPPING

The Link

NEW ORANGE ALL-INCLUSIVE MOBILE PACKAGE

INCLUDES

2 YEARS UNLIMITED
CALLING TO 1000s OF
NUMBER OF SITES PHONE & CONNECTION FREE

SAVE
OVER
£75*

£199.99*
INCLUDES CONNECTION

Motorola DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE PACKAGE

- Up to 150 minutes talktime/40 hours standby
- 185 name and number memory
- Rapid charger supplied - charges phone in just 90 minutes
- Fax, Data and Short Message compatible
- Model: MR30

Dancall

DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE

- Up to 60 minutes talktime/16 hours standby
- 85 name and number memory
- Answerphone message alert
- Model: DC1

£9.99*

Nokia DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE

- Up to 100 minutes talktime/21 hours standby
- 205 name and number memory
- Fax and data compatible
- Model: 51

£79.99*

HOW YOU SAVE MONEY WITH 2 ORANGE MOBILE PHONES

- Free connection on the second phone
- Buy both phones at the same time and save up to £10.
- One Billed bill.

- Starts up to 200 minutes of inclusive calls every month.
- Weekend calls under 6p per minute.
- Calls between the phones just 1p per minute.

The Link

89 STORES NATIONWIDE

THE BIGGEST CHOICE

The largest range of communication products in the UK - mobile phones, faxes, pagers, telephones and palm-top computers.

THE LINK PRICE PROMISE

If you find exactly the same package cheaper locally within 7 days, we will refund the difference.

2 YEARS MOBILE PHONE INSURANCE

Mastercare Coverplan Mobile Phone insurance is available for everything from accidental damage to theft and cell cloning.

FREE CHOICE GUARANTEE

For a one-off payment of £1.29 when you make your purchase, you can return your phone and cancel your airtime without penalty at anytime within the first 12 months.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEE

If you are not completely satisfied, return your mobile phone within 14 days for a refund.

FREEPHONE 0500 222 666

For your nearest store and to order direct

Labour sets

BALLOT 97

THE TIMES GUIDE TO ELECTION ISSUES

18. Northern Ireland

Struggle to solve an all-party problem

Millions of British citizens have had their lives disrupted and headlines have been grabbed during this election campaign because of one unresolved political problem. That problem has, however, scarcely featured in the speeches of potential Prime Ministers and impinged at only the margins of political debate. The problem is Northern Ireland.

Although Labour and the Conservatives go into this election pledged to uphold the majority's wish to remain in the United Kingdom, neither party is seriously trying to secure representation there. The field is left to a variety of parties that exist only in Northern Ireland, and one, Sinn Féin, that organises throughout Ireland. Although all the parties have policies on everything from health to fish farming, the dividing line between them is not left and right, but the border. Unionists want to keep it, and the link with the rest of the UK, nationalists want it to go.

Since the Conservative victory in 1979 the search for a political solution, that is a constitutional dispensation for Northern Ireland which will end the violence, has dominated government policy. As well as trying to design an assembly, the Tories have tried to develop links with Dublin. The notable legacy of this approach was the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985. Although all these initiatives were designed to undermine terrorism by showing that constitu-

tional politics could work, the republican campaign of violence has continued unabated.

The IRA has been fighting a "long war" in which it hoped to "sticken" the British State sufficiently to encourage withdrawal. Throughout the Eighties the IRA increasingly switched to attacking economically significant mainland targets. Bombs such as those at Harrods and that at the Baltic Exchange in the City in 1992 were intended to send tremors through the British establishment and encourage international pressure on the Government to come to an accommodation with republicans.

In the late Eighties, provoked by republican violence, and fearing that their position was undermined by Anglo-Irish initiatives, loyalists within Unionist communities began to intensify their own terror campaign, killing Catholics in republican areas to create an atmosphere of fear and an appetite for peace within those communities. These factors combined in the early Nineties with the coming to power of new Prime Ministers in the Republic of Ireland and in the United Kingdom to create an environment propitious for a new peace initiative.

The diplomatic efforts seemed to have worked when, in August 1994, the IRA declared a ceasefire. Soon after, in October, the loyalists followed suit. Northern Ireland was at peace for the first time in 25 years. It was not to last.



Paramilitary shootings are just one symptom of an illness for which a cure has yet to be found

Indeed, it is difficult to see how it could have lasted. Republicans expected the ceasefire to lead quickly to all-party talks and a timetable for British withdrawal. Loyalists expected the Union's future to be assured. Their expectations were irreconcilable.

When entry to talks was delayed by demands from Unionists that paramilitaries give up

weapons before dialogue could begin, republican frustration grew. A commission, set up by US Senator George Mitchell to examine how decommissioning might be reached to the satisfaction of all, suggested using elections to a peace forum as one bypass to talks. Republicans saw this not so much as a route round the IRA appeared to respond by escalating its campaign, but her attempt to entice republicans into laying down their weapons was little different from past offers made by British and Irish ministers.

Since then the IRA has been responsible for a series of terrorist attacks, but hand-in-hand with this military strategy Sinn Féin leaders have pursued a political programme, arguing that the more votes the party gets the better placed it is to insist on entry to talks and also influence the IRA to call a ceasefire.

Republicans have said that talks in which they have not been involved have achieved little, and it is true that, despite agreement in some areas between the SDLP and the Ulster Unionists, the attempt to agree a method of government for Northern Ireland acceptable to Unionists and na-

tionalists has become bogged down in procedural detail.

In an effort to break the deadlock Mo Mowlam, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, suggested earlier this month that another IRA ceasefire could see Sinn Féin in talks by June. She was chided for her words by Tory ministers and left exposed when the IRA appeared to respond by escalating its campaign, but her attempt to entice republicans into laying down their weapons was little different from past offers made by British and Irish ministers.

The tangled history of talks aside, Northern Ireland has, like the rest of the United Kingdom, enjoyed gently rising prosperity over the past 18 years. While violence has been a brake on investment, successive secretaries of state have intervened vigorously to attract and maintain employment.

Northern Ireland's level of unemployment, at about 11 per cent, is above the UK average but not perilously so. During the ceasefire, inward investment reached record levels, with £432 million pledged and 4,689 jobs

created. Since then, investment has slowed but not evaporated.

Northern Ireland, partly for security reasons and partly because of Troubles-related poverty, enjoys the highest level of per capita public spending within the UK, approximately one third higher than elsewhere. Housing has been improved, with the number of homes officially unfit for occupation cut by one third. Some of the UK's best social housing is in Northern Ireland and home ownership has risen from 52 to 66 per cent since 1979. Education remains predominantly segregated and selective, entrenching sectarian outlooks but yielding impressive academic results. The hospitals, for tragically obvious reasons, are some of Britain's finest.

Both main British political parties are committed to a joint approach to Northern Ireland. Although they differ on detail, Labour has so far refrained from explicit criticism of the Conservatives. Labour hopes that the Tories will extend it if the same leeway is given.

Tests will come early. July will see the high point of the Unionist marching season, the bitterly contested exercise in asserting Unionist identity by ceremonial walks along traditional routes. For the past two years, nationalists in Portadown have objected to a Protestant march through their housing estate. Last year the marchers were penned behind wire for four days before a campaign of wider civil disobedience culminated in them being allowed to march. When it did, nationalist objectors had to be beaten back.

The event was seen, as so many events in Northern Ireland, to have great symbolic significance — proof that the British State would always bow to Unionist muscle. Others came to a more sombre conclusion: that violence, or the threat of violence, secures concessions in Northern Ireland. As long as that perception continues, then so will the Troubles.

Northern Ireland's level of unemployment, at about 11 per cent, is above the UK average but not perilously so. During the ceasefire, inward investment reached record levels, with £432 million pledged and 4,689 jobs

CONSERVATIVES



The Ulster peace process absorbed a great deal of the energy of both the retiring Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, and John Major. Painstaking negotiators, they tried to balance offence to Unionist and nationalist sensibilities. The IRA ceasefire brought benefits to Ulster and its collapse, as well as a dwindling majority, has inclined the Tories to a stance slightly more sympathetic to Unionist concerns. A re-elected Tory government would not, however, allow that significantly to impede moves that could secure a credible ceasefire. A Tory opposition might assume an even more Unionist posture.

LABOUR



Labour, under its Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, has moved away from its traditional nationalist stance of Irish "unity by consent" and now supports a bipartisan line that Ulster's future should be decided by its people alone and the Government intends only to defend the democratic majority's decision. Labour has been critical of the Government's indulgent approach to Orange marches, and is likely to be more pro-active in anti-discrimination policies. May also show its openness to talks after an IRA ceasefire with gestures to the republican community such as an apology for Bloody Sunday.

Clinically proven to cut clean through to muscular pain

Traxam
Pain Relief Gel
Powerful, penetrating relief from
muscular aches, pains and backache

New Traxam* Pain Relief Gel contains the powerful anti-inflammatory analgesic, felbinac. Widely prescribed by doctors to treat muscular aches, sprains, and backache.

NOW AVAILABLE WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION

ASK YOUR PHARMACIST
ACTIVE INGREDIENT FELBINAC TRADE MARK
ALWAYS READ THE LABEL

Priced with your business in mind

For the cost conscious, a Viglen Business PC represents outstanding value. The powerful Business PC150 costs just £849 (exc. VAT and delivery) and offers many essential business tools. In a fast yet easy to use package. But there are many other reasons why a Viglen PC makes the perfect business partner. Combining state-of-the-art technology and manufactured to the highest possible standards in one of the most modern factories in the UK, Viglen business PCs are totally reliable. In an independent survey by PC Magazine, users voted Viglen top for system reliability. And every Viglen PC comes with lifetime technical telephone support to keep your business running smoothly. So you can see why nothing makes better economic sense than the Viglen Business PC150.



£849.00
exc. VAT & delivery

£32.00
per month
only 10% deposit

For more information or to place your order call 0990 39 39 39

9am - 5pm Weekdays 9am - 1pm Saturday. Calls charged at National Rate

fax 0181 758 7080

web <http://www.viglen.co.uk>

Viglen Limited, Viglen House, Alperton Lane, Alperton, Middlesex HA6 0JX

*EasyPay - Monthly payment scheme is available to private purchasers subject to status. Typical example of payment calculation of PC costing £849 exc. VAT (£849.00 inc. del & VAT). 10% deposit of £84.52 required followed by 36 monthly payments of £22.41 (APR = 17.5%). For finance over £2500 use VAT, APR drops to 14.5%. Additional payment protection insurance is available. Viglen is a registered credit broker.

Viglen, Computer Games and Services are registered trademarks of Viglen Ltd. The Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks, and MMX is a trademark of Intel Corporation. Microsoft, Microsoft Word, Windows and Windows Logo are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. All other trademarks and service marks are the property of their respective owners.



PENTIUM PRO
PROCESSOR



GREAT MINDS THINK VIGLEN

THE TIMES
Scargill

King
for jo

Millbank
minders
attacked
by Grant

ELECTION

Scargill has found a rich seam of old Labour sentiment in South Wales, Valerie Elliott writes

King Arthur rides south for joust with turncoat

IT IS most unusual to see Arthur Scargill without loudhailer, placard or minders. It is even more unnerving to see him surrounded by grannies, gentle souls and pacifists who seem to make up the vanguard of his personal campaign against Tory-turned-Labour Alan Howarth for Newport East.

The familiar scowl has been replaced by an almost permanent smile. For the astonishing news from the South Wales battlefield is the reception being given to the king of coal. Rumour has it that one of the country's best-known Yorkshiremen is house-hunting in the area.

Even in Caldicot, a desirable commuter town for Bristol, Cardiff or Newport — it won the best kept town in Britain award two years ago and is miles from a coalpit — people were queuing up to shake his hand and to claim a Socialist Labour poster.

There is no doubt with Caldicot behaving in such a remarkable fashion that the



Tony Blair welcoming Alan Howarth at the House of Commons after his defection from the Tory party

gloves are truly off in Newport East between old and new Labour. Traditional Labour voters yesterday seemed to be distinctly unimpressed by the man they refer to as a 'Tory turncoat'. Alan Howarth, former Tory minister, won the selection for the safe Labour seat vacated by Roy Hughes. It is claimed that Mr Hughes was offered a peerage to make way for the new Labour convert.

Don Jones, a gas technician,

was typical of a stream of shoppers greeting Arthur Scargill yesterday. "I have no time for Tory traitors or any traitor," Donna Griffiths said. "We can't vote for the Labour man, he walked the road. If he can do it to the Tories he could do it to us."

Wynford Kerton, a former steelworker, said: "We can't have a Conservative here. You'd know what they would

call him in the pit Arthur — a blackleg."

The miners' leader and president of the Socialist Labour Party replied: "That's why I'm wearing red."

His smile was in danger of becoming a rather self-satisfied grin. But even Arthur Scargill was startled by the spontaneous displays of support. Indeed, he was clearly so overwhelmed that he broke an official vow not to speak to *The Times*. "This is exactly the reaction we are getting everywhere. It is pleasantly surprising but I knew feelings would be running high here."

He believes he is on very strong ground in bringing this personal battle to Newport. "It wasn't for Howarth I wouldn't be here. I have no time for Tory defectors. Leopards never change their spots. He's still a right-wing Tory. I was arrested twice here in the early Eighties trying to save the steelworks. What was Howarth doing? Voting to get rid of steel jobs here. He's also privatised water and gas and



Arthur Scargill in Caldicot, South Wales, yesterday during his personal crusade against Mr Howarth

he's in favour of privileged education."

Mr Howarth has lost no time in establishing a base in Newport East, where he is defending a 9,899 Labour majority.

Yesterday Patricia Con-

stant, his secretary, said: "We think it is going very well indeed. As for a debate with Mr Scargill, well, he has not been in touch with our office. We did have a request from the Tory David Evans for one date, but Alan was busy."

Mr Scargill is determined that voters in Newport East will know the record of the official Labour candidate.

Mr Scargill's vitriolic attack on him in yesterday's edition of *Tribune* may be a taste of what is to come. In the article

he said: "New Labour has become Thatcherism's last best hope... what choice does this leave millions of voters who utterly despise old Conservatives. Howarth included, for their many crimes over the last 18 years?"



Grant feels like an errant schoolboy

Millbank minders attacked by Grant

By DANIEL McGROarty

BERNIE GRANT concedes that he feels as though he is being treated like a delinquent schoolboy by the head prefects at Millbank Tower, Labour's election HQ. "They would prefer I stay locked up at home in Tottenham but I tell them to get stuffed," Mr Grant, who is seeking re-election in the north London seat, said.

The minders at Millbank would have had an apoplexy had they known that Bernie was meeting one of new Labour's women candidates to canvass at a Hare Krishna temple. "They probably thought I was going to teach her yogic flying," he chuckled.

The Krishna temple at Letchmore Heath was where the Beatles wrote *Sgt. Pepper* and which George Harrison donated to the Hindu community. Mr Grant hummed Beatles songs while he waited for Beth Kelly, the local candidate, and learnt from the monks that they have no truck with what you might expect would be their first choice: the Natural Law Party.

"Too flaky," Bimal Krishna Das, secretary of the temple, said. "We are like most other communities who are concerned about who will fund our schools." Mr Grant had supported the temple when locals derided it as a hippy drugs den that was blighting their property and engaged the religious community in a ten-year planning dispute.

Over lunch, Mr Grant promised funding for their school and help to reclaim Hindu art "looted by British museums". The lady from new Labour gulped, worried that her spell in the Blair sect might be over before it begins.

Action men

The manufacturers of Action Man have dressed the dolls to look like the leaders of the political parties. Two models of each doll have been made and will be auctioned as a set for charity. Apart from the three main party leaders there are versions of Screaming Lord Sutch and Sir James Goldsmith, and a Sindy doll Cherie Blair.

ELECTION TRAIL

Conservatives: Gillian Shephard, Peter Lilley in the West; Ian Lang, Kenneth Clarke in Scotland, Virginia Bottomley in the South, Stephen Dorrell, Michael Heseltine in the Midlands, Michael Portillo in the East, William Hague in Wales. Labour: Jack Straw in Birmingham, John Prescott in Scotland, Barbara Roche in the North, Chris Smith, Donald Dewar in the North West, Gavin Sherr in Wales, Margaret Beckett, Robin Cook in the South East. Harriet

A profile of success.

THE LIFE, PENSIONS AND INVESTMENT industry has been through a period of unprecedented turmoil.

Yet, at Scottish Widows, that didn't stop us producing our second successive rise in new business figures. Or from positioning ourselves more strongly than ever.

In 1995 we added £1,005 million of new business across the life, pensions and investment markets - an increase of 44% on the previous year.

In 1996 we improved on that with £1,175 million of new money - up a further 17%.

Our vision is "To be recognised as the best high-quality provider of investment, pension and life assurance products". But we saw clearly that to achieve that decisive action was needed.

The result? Apart from the fact that we now look after over 2 million people, have assets under management of over £24 billion* and an extremely sound financial strength rating - ratified by both the leading rating agencies...

We've looked critically at our cost base and

made savings equivalent to over £40 million per annum - in fact over one third of our costs, excluding commission. And we've taken steps to make sure things stay that way.

We were able to ensure that the real rate of return on investors' money was significant last year. On a 20 year endowment policy based on a premium of £50 a month, for example, the actual payout as a result of the bonus declaration represented a yield of 13%. This compares to a corresponding average rate of increase in the Retail Price Index of just 5.1%.

We're now working with other market leaders - Royal Bank of Scotland, Direct Line and Tesco - to increase business opportunities and decrease costs through economies of scale.

And, of course it's a fundamental part of our business to continue to offer an up to the moment range of services and products to our customers however they wish to buy - either through Independent Financial Advisers or direct.

So who reaps the dividends of a company determined to anticipate and respond to change, and with the will to push down costs and drive up service? Without shareholders, the benefits flow through in the form of higher bonus declarations and improved product pricing for our customers and members.

And our outlook for the future? We'll continue to work harder to offer better value products and services. For everyone's mutual benefit.

SCOTTISH WIDOWS

Looking good for your money

If you'd like a copy of the Scottish Widows' Annual Review please call 0345 678910.

*AS AT 31.3.97. FOR YOUR PROTECTION YOUR CALLS TO SCOTTISH WIDOWS MAY BE RECORDED OR MONITORED. PLEASE NOTE THAT PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY A GUIDE TO FUTURE PERFORMANCE. ISSUED BY SCOTTISH WIDOWS FUND AND LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY, REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY.

Russians have a bone to pick over dinosaur remains in Britain

FROM RICHARD BEENTON
IN MOSCOW

THE normally respectable world of palaeontology has been split by a dispute between Russian and British scientists for custody of a unique collection of Jurassic-era dinosaur remains.

The Moscow Palaeontological Institute yesterday accused Bristol University of "borrowing" nine samples of pterosaurs flying reptiles and refusing to return them to their Russian owners.

The row, which has echoes of a similar dispute in America over a collection of tsarist treasures now in Washington, has

led to accusations on both sides that scientists want to use the valuable dinosaur remains for financial profit.

Igor Novikov, the deputy director of the institute, said that the collection was loaned to Bristol in 1993 under a one-year study arrangement that was extended by another year. "At the end of this period we requested that the collection be returned to its home in Moscow, but Bristol has repeatedly ignored our numerous requests," he said. "It has become increasingly clear that the university wants to hold on to the collection as long as possible to maintain its funding from public and private grants." But Don

Carleton, the Bristol University spokesman, dismissed the allegations as nonsense. He said that the pterosaurs specimens were borrowed from Moscow under a collaborative project sponsored by the Royal Society and with the co-operation of the Russians.

"We did borrow the specimens for scientific research in collaboration with the Russians, whose scientists are here in Bristol working on this project as I speak," he said. "The work has been extended but we expect it to be completed within a year. When the research is finished, everything will be returned to Russia." Dr David Unwin, a Royal

Society research fellow who set up the collaborative Anglo-Russian project, insisted that the agreement with Moscow was "open-ended", but hinted that the collection would be far better off remaining outside Russia for the time being.

The Moscow Palaeontological Institute, once a prestigious part of the Soviet scientific establishment, has been hit by Russia's economic turmoils and valuable dinosaur remains have been stolen and sold on the black market. Three years ago, a 245-million-year-old dinosaur skull was stolen from the museum, sold to a German fossil collector for £500 and resurfaced in the State Museum for

Natural History in Stuttgart. It was returned to Moscow after Interpol traced its whereabouts. The collection in Bristol is particularly rare because few of the delicate bones of flying reptiles have been recovered intact.

Dr Unwin, who spent two years working in Moscow at the institute, said that the Stuttgart case was not isolated. He maintained that the illicit traffic in dinosaur fossils was still going on and that he has traced missing exhibits to collectors in Japan.

"They [the directors] make their money by selling their collections to rather nefarious individuals," Dr Unwin told

the *Moscow Times*. "For the last few years a very dirty trade has been going on, with the directors of the institute selling the museum's collections to fossil collectors."

Mr Novikov said that he was "deeply insulted" by the allegations. "Like any museum we have problems of funding and theft. When items go missing we report them to the police, and in one case the stolen property was returned."

For the time being, the institute in Moscow is not considering legal action to get its property back but will continue to appeal to the authorities in Bristol to return the collection.

Ex-Soviet states and China sign deal on frontier troop cuts

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

THE Presidents of Russia, China and the Central Asian republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan signed an agreement in Moscow yesterday to limit troop levels in their border regions.

The deal is designed to create a zone of stability along the 4,500-mile former Sino-Soviet frontier. It marks a significant improvement in relations between China and its neighbours since the break-up of the Soviet Union brought an end to the rivalries between the world's biggest communist powers. Rapprochement between Moscow and Beijing was already underway in the perestroika era of Mikhail Gorbachev in the late 1980s, after a period of hostility that came to a head with border clashes in 1969.

At the signing ceremony in the Kremlin, after talks with President Jiang Zemin of China, President Yeltsin said that the agreement would boost mutual confidence between the five countries and he expressed the hope that other countries in the Asia-Pacific region would follow its example. The ceremony was also attended by President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, President Akayev of Kyrgyzstan, and President Rakhmonov of Tajikistan.

The agreement sets a strict limit on the number of ground troops, tactical air force and anti-aircraft personnel deployed by all the countries

concerned in a 60-mile zone either side of China's border with the former Soviet republics. But it does not cover strategic air defence or rocket forces.

According to Russian defence sources, the accord provides for Russia and the Central Asian republics to keep 3,900 tanks in the border zone, all but 100 of these being provided by Russia. China would also be allowed the same number.

But the sources, quoted by Interfax news agency, said that the agreement would not involve troop withdrawals on the Russian side as the permitted numbers already exceed the forces deployed in the region. China was also already well within the new quota.

The agreement is seen as part of Moscow's efforts to forge closer links with its Asian neighbours to provide a counter-balance to Nato's expansion into Eastern Europe. But Russian and Chinese officials have emphasised that neither country is looking to rebuild the close Sino-Soviet alliance of the 1950s.

In a separate development, Mr Yeltsin yesterday appealed to young Russians to take a more active role in the country's political life. In his weekly radio address to the nation, the President took Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, to task for failing to bring more young people into

the Government and use their energy and ideas. "We are simply afraid of promoting the young. Yes we are, Viktor Stepanovich. But don't worry: they are not trying to step into your shoes," he said.

President Yeltsin reminded his listeners that he was 66 and hoped to hand over to a younger person when he stepped down at the end of his term in three years' time.

One candidate widely tipped for the succession is Boris Nemtsov, the 37-year-old former Governor of Nizhny Novgorod, who was promoted by Mr Yeltsin to First Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister in a Cabinet reshuffle last month.

Yesterday he increased Mr Nemtsov's powers by appointing him Fuel and Energy Minister in addition to his other posts.

□ **Aide move:** Russia formally applied yesterday to Polish authorities for the extradition of a former adviser to President Yeltsin wanted on suspicion of corruption. Sergei Stankevich, a former Deputy Mayor of Moscow, was arrested in Warsaw last week during routine traffic control.

Mr Stankevich, who allegedly pocketed £6 million in 1992 for authorising a classical concert and ballet in Red Square, fled to America in 1995. It was not clear what he was doing in Warsaw, Poland and Russia have a convention on judicial assistance. (APF)



Presidents Akayev, left, Nazarbayev, Jiang Zemin, Yeltsin and Rakhmonov at the Kremlin yesterday

Kremlin spies break Cold War record

Frankfurt: There are more Russian spies operating in Germany now than during the Cold War, according to a government report unveiled in Bonn last night (Deborah Collyer writes).

Germany attracts more agents than any other European country and experts estimate that the actual number of Russian moles "probably stretches into the thousands", said a senior counter-intelligence officer.

In a report by the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, secret service officers concluded that Moscow's spies were operating more openly than ever before but their targets had changed since the fall of communism. "Before they were mainly engaged in observing and monitoring military developments, now

they are interested in German telecommunication technology and in the computers we use," said a spokesman.

"The spies are required to deliver both files and information so that their country can keep abreast of all the latest technological advances in the West." Further fields of interest are Nato's expansion to the east, Bonn's Eastern bloc policy and the Middle East peace process.

According to the report, President Yeltsin is said to have personally ordered the extra deployment of spies to Germany and other West European countries, though this has been strongly denied by Moscow. The report claims that Moscow is now at the centre of the spying operation and all agents are recruited, rigorously trained, dispatched and monitored from there. German intelligence officers believe that personal contact is kept to a minimum and the moles receive their information and orders via coded short-wave radio messages. Highly sensitive material, money and support information are delivered to disguised hiding places.

The intelligence service has established that ethnic Germans living in Russia and high-ranking former KGB staff are favoured for operations in Germany. It has also identified a rise in the number of relatives of staff on Moscow's secret service team working at the Russian Embassy in Bonn and holding diplomatic posts here. Spies are infiltrating industry in the guise of trainees and managers in German businesses.

Midland Bank plc is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and only advises on its own life assurance, pensions and unit trusts. The Capital Protected Personal Equity Plan (PEP) is a five year contract, and is not a guaranteed product. The minimum investment is £3,000. No income is produced during this time. You are advised not to invest in the Capital Protected PEP if you anticipate that you will need to cash it in during the five year term. If you do you may not get back your original investment and you will not benefit from any rise in the FT-SE 100 Index. Calls may be monitored or recorded. Applications accepted from 1/3/97. We reserve the right to withdraw this offer at any time. Simon is a fictional character but his story is based on a real Midland customer. BO/46.

Prison for anti-Jewish skinheads

FROM ADAM SAGE
IN PARIS

FOUR skinheads were yesterday imprisoned after being found guilty of desecrating tombs at a Jewish cemetery in southern France. Olivier Fimbray, 29, and Patrick Laonegro, 31, were jailed for two years, and Bertrand Nouzeau, 29, and Yannick Garnaier, 27, for 20 months.

The judgment in Marignane closed one of the most highly charged affairs in recent French history. It has given rise to seven years of outrage, demonstrations and political intrigue.

When the Jewish community in Carpentras found the body of Félix Gérard exhumed and 34 other tombs damaged at its local cemetery in May 1990, France reacted with horror.

The ghost of the Vichy regime, which collaborated with the Nazis during the Second World War, hung over the country. The late President Mitterrand led several thousand on a protest march targeted at the extreme-right National Front.

Although two years is the maximum sentence for desecration under French law, members of the Jewish community were last night angry at the punishment given to the four defendants, saying it is a light sentence for one of the most shocking French crimes this decade.

Businessmen attack German parties for tax talks deadlock

FROM DEBORAH COLLYER IN FRANKFURT

THE leaders of the German Government and Opposition have been bitterly criticised by industrialists and economists for the collapse of cross-party talks on reforms to the complex tax system which may have to be delayed for a year.

The Christian Democrat and Free Democrat coalition and the opposition Social Democrats were accused of jeopardising economic recovery by political intransigence. The failure to reach agreement has prompted analysts to question Bonn's ability to contain borrowing to qualify for the start of economic and monetary union in 1999.

President Herzog made a rare political intervention yesterday and appealed to the

Vatican's blessing on 'no sex' gays

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

HOMOSEXUALS can be good Roman Catholics and even candidates for sainthood, provided they repent and opt for "friendship" rather than engaging in sex, according to the Vatican.

The statement, which marks a softening in the Vatican line, came in an article by Jean Louis Brugues, a leading theologian, in *l'Observateur Romain*, the Vatican newspaper. "In the Vatican's terms this is an overt to lesbians and gays," said *La Repubblica*.

"It amounts to saying that, if they repent, refrain from making love, mortify the temptations of the flesh and pray, contrite homosexuals should all be gathered into the Kingdom of Heaven."

Vatican officials said homosexuality was still regarded by the hierarchy as a "disorder". But despite the conservative views of the Pope, there are signs of a liberal wind blowing. Last month a new Vatican handbook for priests said couples who admitted to the confession they had used contraceptives should be treated with "mercy, discretion and respect".

La Repubblica spoke of a "slap in the face by Europe". It said Brussels clearly did not have faith in the efforts of the centre-left Government to cut the budget deficit since it took office nearly a year ago.

Letters, page 21

politicians to help to reduce unemployment, currently at a postwar record 4.48 million.

"We must act now instead of just talking," he said, after the talks on a plan by Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, to cut £15 billion in taxes.

The Chamber of Industry and Commerce called the breakdown in talks "a shock for the investment economy" and the daily business newspaper *Handelsblatt* said: "The going-on in Bonn will frighten off all foreign investors; it is proof again of the country's inability to reform itself." Dieter Vesper, of a leading German economic institute, said it was "poison for the economy" and cast doubt on the Government's ability to meet its 1997 growth forecast of 2.5 per cent.

□ **Rome:** Italy was yesterday smirking from a blow to its national pride after the European Commission's assessment that the Italian economy will fail to meet the criteria for membership of the single currency in 1999 (Richard Owen writes).

La Repubblica spoke of a "slap in the face by Europe". It said Brussels clearly did not have faith in the efforts of the centre-left Government to cut the budget deficit since it took office nearly a year ago.

Letters, page 21

They all say education is top of their agenda.

But they want your vote.

Our passion for education isn't confined to a manifesto.
It's our job.

ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS AND LECTURERS
To receive details of ATL's 'new deal' for education, please call 0171 930 6441.
<http://www.atl.org.uk>



Member HSBC Group

Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conservative	<input type="checkbox"/>
Labour	<input type="checkbox"/>
Liberal Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/>

They all say education is top of their agenda.

But they want your vote.

Our passion for education isn't confined to a manifesto.
It's our job.

ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS AND LECTURERS
To receive details of ATL's 'new deal' for education, please call 0171 930 6441.
<http://www.atl.org.uk>



Member HSBC Group

Simon likes a bit of excitement, but he's not very keen on risk. So unsurprisingly he's very interested in Midland's Capital Protected Personal Equity Plan (PEP) as a five year

contract, and is not a guaranteed product. The minimum investment is £3,000. No income is produced during this time. You are advised not to invest in the Capital Protected PEP if you anticipate that you will need to cash it in during the five year term. If you do you may not get back your original investment and you will not benefit from any rise in the FT-SE 100 Index. Calls may be monitored or recorded. Applications accepted from 1/3/97. We reserve the right to withdraw this offer at any time. Simon is a fictional character but his story is based on a real Midland customer. BO/46.



Meet Simon.

Simon would like better stock-market returns without taking more stock-market risks.

Simon likes a bit of excitement, but he's not very keen on risk. So unsurprisingly he's very interested in Midland's Capital Protected Personal Equity Plan. Like traditional PEPs, it's a way to benefit from stock-market growth without paying income or capital gains tax. Unlike traditional PEPs, however, Simon will get back all his initial investment plus a fixed return

of 20% on his capital at the end of five years, even if the stock market falls. Which adds up to a better deal than his building society is likely to offer him. Simon described it as "having my cake and eating it" or something like that.

Minimum 20% return

He called 0800 100 160 for his information pack and application form.

He'll have to return it quickly because the offer is strictly limited.



For further details please complete the coupon and send to: Midland Bank plc, CPP, FREEPOST BS435, Bristol, BS1 3YX.

Title Initials Surname

Address

Town County

Postcode Telephone

Are you a Midland customer? Yes No. If so, please fill in your sort code 50/

Are you happy to receive information from Midland in the future? Yes No.

TIMES 21A

McVeigh 'wanted to see blood on streets of US'

TIMOTHY McVEIGH blew up a federal building in Oklahoma City to show his hatred for the Government and see "blood flow on the streets of America", a Denver jury heard yesterday.

In his opening statement, Joseph Hartzler, the chief prosecution lawyer, said: "The truck was there to impose the will of Timothy McVeigh on the rest of America and to do so... by murdering innocent men, women and children in hopes of seeing blood flow on the streets of America... they were in a building owned by a government that Timothy McVeigh so hated that with premeditated intent... he chose to take their innocent lives."

Mr Hartzler said he would later produce evidence that would enable the jury to "know the twisted motive behind this deadly offence".

The opening arguments in the trial of Mr McVeigh, 29, accused of the worst terrorist attack in American history, were to be followed by videotape of the explosion at 9.02am on April 19, 1995. Testimony by prosecution witnesses yesterday was expected to give detailed descriptions of injuries to more than 500 people sprayed by debris and post-mortem examinations carried out on the 168 dead, including 19 children.

Earlier, survivors and relatives of the dead were warned that testimony would include the most graphic and chilling evidence of the crime. Pres-

The prosecution hopes that presenting lurid details of the Oklahoma bombing will compensate for the gaps in its case. Tom Rhodes reports from Denver



McVeigh: withdrew to murky world of militias

sure on the prosecution to obtain the conviction of Mr McVeigh and Terry Nichols, 42, to be tried later, has mounted since the start of jury selection this month.

With a jury finally in place and evidence ready for presentation yesterday, opinion polls suggest that at least 83 per cent of Americans believe Mr McVeigh is guilty. But the burden on the prosecution has grown heavier by the day.

They are also expected to allege that the attack was to prove its validity.

But the case for the prosecution cannot rest easily. The Government is seeking the death penalty against Mr McVeigh for the murders of four Secret Service Agents: a Drug Enforcement Administration agent, an employee of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and two Customs Service agents.

In recent months, Stephen Jones, the chief defence lawyer, has woven an intricate tapestry of conspiracy around the case, alleging the involvement of the IRA, the Iraqi Government and two white supremacists, Andreas Strassmeier, a German, and Dennis Mahon, former leader of the White Aryan Resistance. Mr Jones will claim that Mr McVeigh was only tangentially associated with the crime, if at all.

Judge in cowboy boots will keep tight rein on his court



Matsch: tyrannical

MAN IN THE NEWS

Denver: He sees himself as a hybrid of Napoleon and General Patton and has made it clear who will be the master of his Denver courtroom throughout the trials of those accused in America's worst act of terrorism (Tom Rhodes writes). Judge Richard Matsch, however, is also considered one of the best trial lawyers in the United States.

This tough but traditional Western lawman yesterday took centre stage in the trial of Timothy McVeigh. A diminutive figure with bushy moustache peering from his pallid face, Mr Matsch, 67, has

modelled on a fictional incident described in a white supremacist novel, *The Turner Diaries*, a book Mr McVeigh allegedly sold at gun shows and a copy of which was found in his car when he was arrested outside Oklahoma City 90 minutes after the explosion.

It is believed that Jennifer McVeigh, the defendant's sister, will testify that her brother saw the book as a means of retaliation against the Government after Waco. In the coming weeks, Mr Hartzler and his team will also present the testimony of some 20,000 witnesses, the FBI studies of 500 hours of videotape and the conclusion of a 22-month investigation.

The physical evidence against Mr McVeigh, including explosive residue found on his clothes and fingerprints discovered on a receipt for the purchase of forty 50lb bags of ammonium nitrate fertiliser, appears overwhelming.

Coupled with the testimony of Michael Fortier, an army colleague who claims he "cashed the joint" with Mr McVeigh in late 1994, and the publication of numerous alleged confessions by the defendant, the prosecution is hoping to defy defence allegations of a wider conspiracy and forensic incompetence by the FBI. Linda Jones, a British forensic and explosives expert who has worked on numerous IRA bombings, is expected to provide a critical independent analysis of the FBI data to prove its validity.

But the case for the prosecution cannot rest easily. The Government is seeking the death penalty against Mr McVeigh for the murders of four Secret Service Agents: a Drug Enforcement Administration agent, an employee of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and two Customs Service agents.

In recent months, Stephen Jones, the chief defence lawyer, has woven an intricate tapestry of conspiracy around the case, alleging the involvement of the IRA, the Iraqi Government and two white supremacists, Andreas Strassmeier, a German, and Dennis Mahon, former leader of the White Aryan Resistance. Mr Jones will claim that Mr McVeigh was only tangentially associated with the crime, if at all.



The 1,600-year-old carving of Buddha, which Afghan hardliners want to destroy

Buddhists condemn Taliban over threat to blow up statue

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Buddhist world is outraged at a threat by Taliban, the extremist Islamic militia in Afghanistan, to blow up a 1,600-year-old statue of the Buddha carved out of a sandstone cliff on the ancient Silk Route.

The statue, Afghanistan's greatest archaeological treasure, is protected by a rival Shia Muslim faction that controls the site in the Bamyan Valley, at the heart of the Hindu Kush mountains in central Afghanistan. A Taliban commander said that

if he captured the area he would destroy the 180ft monument, the world's tallest carving of the Buddha in a standing pose. Another smaller statue of the Buddha, carved about the same time, is also threatened.

The carvings were a tourist and pilgrimage site before the start of civil war in the 1970s. Chinese pilgrims reported as late as the 8th century an "abundance" of priests and temples in the Bamyan Valley, before Islam became the dominant faith. The Bamyan

site was constructed by missionaries and pilgrims during a revival of Buddhism in India in the 3rd and 4th centuries.

Sri Lanka said destruction of the site would be a "treacherous act" from which the entire Buddhist world would suffer. The state-owned *Daily News* quoted Lakshman Jayakody, the Cultural and Religious Affairs Minister, as saying: "I hope sanity will prevail." Hindu organisations in India have also expressed shock.

Cult leader 'tried to halt gas attack'

TOKYO: The trial of Shoko Asahara, leader of the Aum Shinrikyo cult, veered into farce yesterday when he gave evidence in broken English and rambled about the outbreak of the Third World War (Robert Whyman writes).

Mr Asahara said that he tried to talk two disciples out of staging the sarin attack on the Tokyo underground on March 20, 1995, in which 12 people died.

Algerians killed

PARIS: Muslim rebels hacked to death 42 people, including 17 women and three babies, this week in the latest of a series of massacres in the village of Oumaria, south of Algiers.

Sofia choice

Sofia: The anti-Communist coalition that triumphed in last week's election named its leader, Ivan Kostov, to be Prime Minister and to tackle Bulgaria's chronic economic and crime problems. (AP)

Transplant hope

TOKYO: The lower house of parliament passed a Bill that will let heart patients receive transplants. Until now, the only hope for people suffering potentially fatal conditions has been to go abroad. (AP)

Strikers injured

LILLE: Four Renault workers were injured when strikers from the doomed Vilvoorde plant in Belgium clashed with police here. About 300 workers had come to see to Pierre Mauroy, the Mayor. (Reuters)

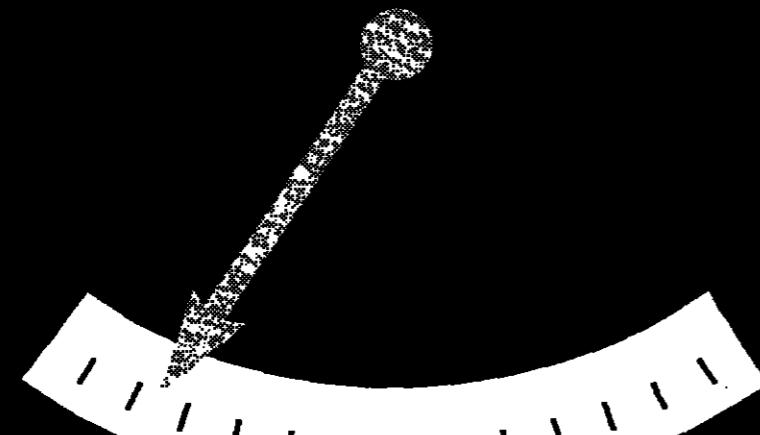
Belgian quizzed

BRUSSELS: Belgian police were questioning a man over a series of murders in which the severed remains of up to six women, wrapped in bin bags, were found scattered in the southern city of Mons.

SS charges kept

ROME: A court refused a request by the city's Jews for charges against Erich Priebke, the former SS officer, to be changed to genocide over the massacre in 1944 of 335 civilians. (AP)

BRITAIN SWINGS TO THE LEFT



ALLIANCE & LEICESTER

UP TO
6.4%
GROSS P.A.
NOTICE ACCOUNT

UP TO
6.2%
GROSS P.A.
NOTICE ACCOUNT

There's a massive swing to Alliance & Leicester happening. For the nation's savers the reasons are clear.

If you have a branch-based notice account with the Nationwide then you should consider making the switch to Alliance & Leicester today. Our new Platinum Plus notice account offers higher interest rates on balances of £2,500 or more.

So if you are with the Nationwide, follow the trend and open a Platinum Plus account today. For details of your nearest Alliance & Leicester branch, call 0800 412 214.

ALLIANCE
LEICESTER

Terms and conditions: Source: BBA's Credit Corporation report as at 23 April 1997, and is limited to rates available on that date. Comparison is on the basis that, with identical terms and conditions, you open a notice account with the Nationwide and receive an interest rate of 6.0% p.a. on balances of £100,000. Interest rates quoted are variable and are subject to 90 day's notice, or immediately subject to 90 days' notice on the deposit withdrawn. Minimum opening balance £2,500. Interest paid annually or monthly on request. Different rates apply to the Platinum Plus account. The rate of 6.4% p.a. is available for balances of £2,500 or more made during the 12 months prior to the anniversary of the account opening. The rate of 6.2% p.a. is available for balances of £2,500 or more made during the 12 months prior to the anniversary of the account opening. Interest will be payable if you are a higher rate taxpayer. Interest is calculated daily from the day following receipt of the notice account application, up to and including the day before withdrawal, or for cheques drawn on a current account from the fourth banking day following receipt. Sundays, Bank and Bank Holidays are not banking days. Minimum investment with Alliance & Leicester is £500,000 per individual. Full terms and conditions available on request. Alliance & Leicester plc. Registered Office: 99 Park Lane, London, W1Y 4EQ. Company No. 2085715. Registered in England. Authorised as a bank pursuant to the Banking Act 1987. Member of the British Bankers Association.

THE SUNDAY TIMES WALKING BACK TO HAPPINESS BUT WILL IT BE EASY STREET OR DOWNING STREET?



READ LESLEY WHITE'S IN-DEPTH PROFILE OF JOHN MAJOR IN THE MAGAZINE THIS WEEKEND

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

LOW COST SWIFTCALL
Australia 20p
Germany 16p
Japan 30p
For further destinations Freeph
Our simple service available

'Guilt is a pointless emotion'

ALAN WELLER

It was more than 30 years ago that John Schlesinger's sister committed suicide, but the director is still suffering

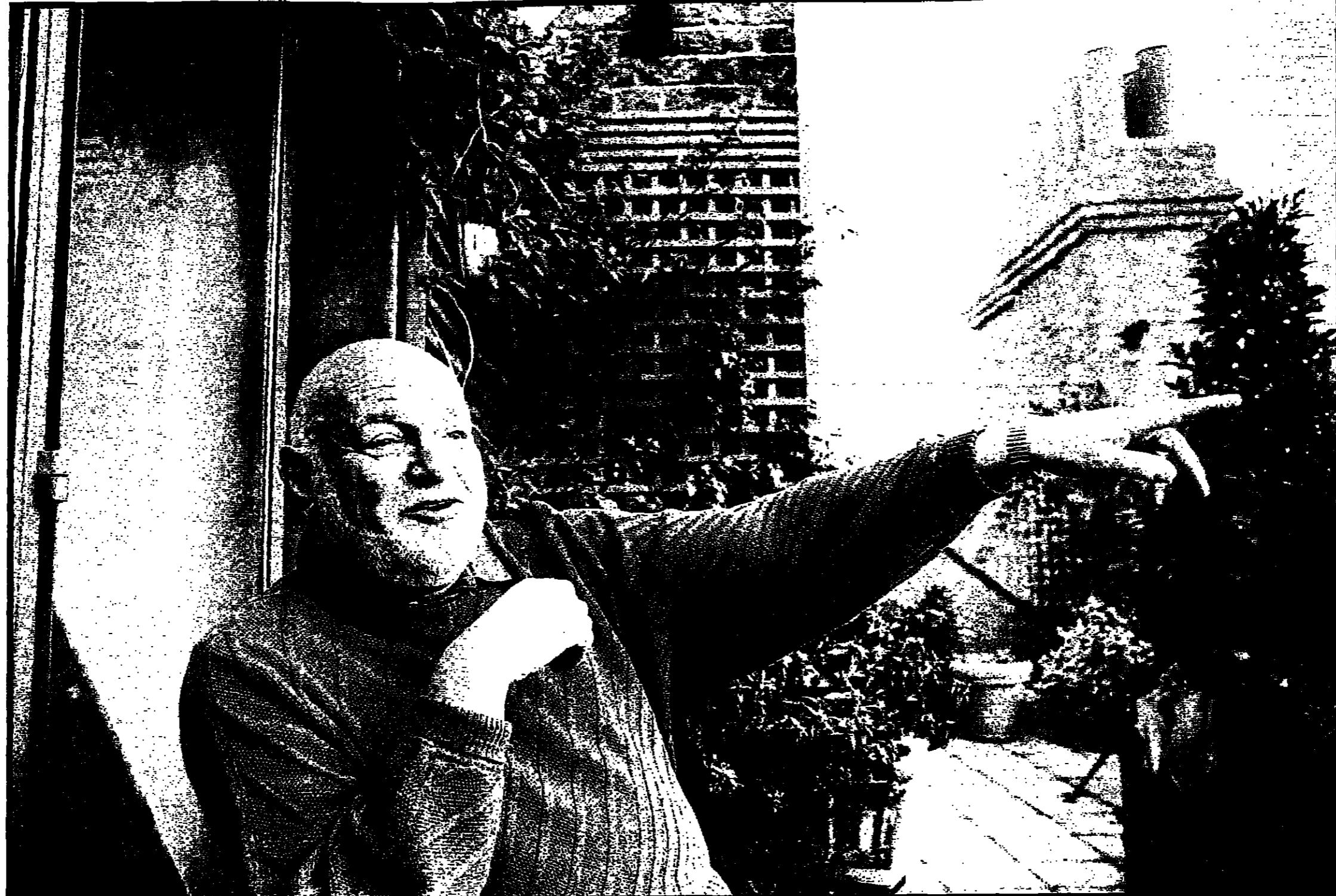
Last night's cinema premiere of John Schlesinger's film *Cold Comfort Farm*, already a success in America, was as usual, a charity affair. The starry sendoff for Stella Gibbons's comic classic was in aid of Befrienders International, the worldwide organisation that rescues the suicidal.

The link with Schlesinger is personal, since his youngest sister, the actress Susan Maryott, committed suicide in 1963. She had starred in Peter Hall's first Stratford season, but fell hopelessly in love with a married playwright. The affair ended, but when he was dying of a virulent cancer, his wife allowed Sue to sit at his bedside and nurse him. Three weeks after his funeral, Sue took an overdose of barbiturates, leaving a note saying she was going to join her lover. She was just 30.

Could anyone have known what would happen? John was away on holiday in Italy: he had asked her to come, too, to cheer her up, but she declined.

"Guilt is a pointless emotion, but it's something we suffer from," Schlesinger says. "You ask yourself, if only I hadn't gone away at that moment, if only I'd been more forceful in making her come with us ... I'm sure all of us in the family asked those questions."

The Schlesingers' five children — John, Wendy, the twins Roger and Hilary, and Sue — had grown up in a Queen Anne house at Inkpen in Berkshire, scene of great happy family Christmases with carol singing and feasting. The house was run by the housekeeper, Laura, known as Gulla, who stayed with them all her working life. "In Ireland recently, I was auditioning extras for crowd scenes — I'm particular about every detail, and I wanted people to



John Schlesinger retains one lingering image from his sister Sue's death, that of his mother finally breaking down when the wrong flowers were sent to the funeral. 'They are not what I ordered,' she wept

have a certain period look, influenced by the cartoonist Rowlandson — and this woman walked in and I said I've got to have that wonderful face. She looked exactly like Gulla."

Their father was a genial doctor who lived to be an energetic 87. In his seventies,

deeply affected by his daughter's death, Schlesinger began working for the Samaritans, manning the telephone line at Newbury. Now Schlesinger's younger brother Roger, the former publisher, works for Befrienders International.

I met John Schlesinger at his

home, carved from the top two floors of a mansion block in South Kensington, with a spectacular rooftop vista. We sat out on the terrace under the setting sun with spritzers and spicy dips concocted by his partner, the casting director Noel Davis. Schlesinger was just back from Arizona, doing

yoga, meditation "and something called Gong Chi" and had spent the day in a Soho cupboard, editing his next film, *Sweeney Todd*, shot in Dublin, with Ben Kingsley and Joanne Lumley.

The last time we spoke, five years ago, was when the Tory party machine, galvanised by the Labour-supporting film director Hugh Hudson's film about Neil Kinnock, had asked Schlesinger to shoot some scenes for their propaganda film. "I'm not ashamed of it, because it was a nice professional job," he told me at the time. "But it was not my idea, my script or my edit, so it was certainly not my film: it was the Saatchis' film."

But he did film "Major — the movie". They suddenly rang me in LA and invited me to have breakfast with the PM. I thought "Sounds interesting. I've never been to Downing Street before". I liked John Major tremendously. We shot a lot of the film in his car [compare "Blair — the movie" (last night)] and it was so cramped he had to do the clapperboard himself, which he rather liked. He laughed a lot and was very funny. This image of a grey man was absolutely disproved to me."

His film business colleagues disagreed: what had the Tories ever done for the movie industry? "I couldn't say I did it out of deep political commitment. I did it because it would take me into areas I had never before experienced."

For the same reasons he once filmed a Churchill series for America. "First I turned it down because they weren't offering enough money and my father said, 'You are crazy! A chance to meet the most fascinating people of our time?' But I stuck out for my £150 a week and proceeded to direct interviews with Montgomery, Mountbatten, Slim. My father was right — they were extraordinary. Monty greeted me with 'Who're you? Oh, so you're the commander-in-chief of the whole operation! And I got my Churchill curtains and carpets for the house I'd just bought."

John Schlesinger took a long time to find his métier. From Uppingham, he did National Service in the Royal Engineers, where he was a misfit and failed to get a commission. "I was dreadfully candid with the selection board. When asked to make a speech, I talked about being Jewish. My parents said 'You're mad, why did you do that?' and I said well I feel strongly about it, about prejudice." After Balliol, he started as an actor. The BBC turned him down for their directors' course. But he was taken on by Huw Wheldon's arts programme, *Monitor*: his first programme was about hair-raising Rus-

sián acrobats at Harringay circus. He loves circuses, the tackier the better.

He is mad about magic shows, too, ever since his father took him to see Maskelyne and Devant. He goes to magicians whenever possible, and recommends the famous duo Siegfried and Roy

in Las Vegas (though he is no gambler). "Every roulette wheel in the world sees me coming", who entertain lavishly in their apartment, complete with caged tigers.

He also finds *Darling* "dated and pleased with itself". But he is going to Bradford soon, where the city is celebrating *Billy Liar*, which was shot there. If only the late Joe Janni, for whom he directed six films, could be there.

"He was my great mentor. I'd done a little film about an opera company, and he sent a message 'Will you come and see me? I'd like to discover you'. I said be my guest."

ast year a film of Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart* fell through — perhaps we've had our AIDS period — but other projects line up. Malcolm Bradbury is writing the script of Virginia Woolf's *Flush: A Biography*; Dustin Hoffman wants him to do *Edith Wharton's House of Mirth* and after his happy association with Alan Bennett, he longs to do a film of Bennett's *The Lady in the Van*. And perhaps, a film with a suicide theme.

He retains one lingering image from his sister Sue's death. "My parents were tremendously strong, and when I rushed home, there wasn't a lot of huge, obvious weeping. But I will never forget that my mother only broke down finally when the wrong flowers were sent to the funeral. They're not what I ordered," she wept. I might use that in a film one day."

He retains one lingering image from his sister Sue's death. "My parents were tremendously strong, and when I rushed home, there wasn't a lot of huge, obvious weeping. But I will never forget that my mother only broke down finally when the wrong flowers were sent to the funeral. They're not what I ordered," she wept. I might use that in a film one day."

Those boots aren't made for walking: crazy footwear inaugurates the Science Museum's new Materials Gallery Arts, pages 35-38

1997 'Top Direct Lender Over Two Years' — What Mortgage Magazine.

Moving house?
Call Direct Line for a cheaper mortgage.
Not moving house? Ditto.

*Mortgage example of £80,000 repayable over 25 years (300 monthly payments).

Lender	APR (Variable)	Monthly Repayments (after tax relief)	Monthly saving with Direct Line	Total Payable
WOOLWICH	7.8%	£560.63	£52.47	£176,130
HALIFAX	7.8%	£557.83	£49.61	£177,156
ABBEY NATIONAL	7.9%	£557.94	£49.12	£175,799
DIRECT LINE	6.5%	£508.22		£159,805

APRs based on £80,000 Variable Rate Repayment mortgage, current as 14th April 1997. www.whatmortgagemag.com
PRIRAS has been calculated under current tax legislation which may change.

- It doesn't matter whether you're moving house or not, you can still move your mortgage to Direct Line.
- It could save you around £50* a month.
- You can borrow up to 90% of the value of your home.
- There's a free valuation.
- No early redemption, arrangement or mortgage indemnity fees.
- Direct line guarantees to save you 20%† on your existing buildings insurance.
- If you transfer your mortgage without moving house Direct Line will pay your legal fees†.
- Call now, we're waiting to beat the banks and building societies.

0181 649 9099

LONDON

0161 831 9099

MANCHESTER

0141 221 9099

GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. TT67

www.directline.co.uk

Mortgages provided by Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 200 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5SR. Direct Line mortgages from £20,000 to £200,000 are available on a 90% of the property valuation, premium plus, scheme. In the future, applicants must be aged 18 to 67 and Direct Line Financial Services Limited reserves the right to decline any application. Life insurance is taken into account in setting the terms and security in the form of a first legal charge. Standard Society - Standard over the property will be required. This property must be duly insured for the duration of the loan. All rates quoted are for standard variable rate mortgages. The standard valuation fee will be reflected in the borrower's costs for the mortgage to be set up. (Over the example quoted the fee would be £179). Direct Line will pay your legal fees provided you complete the transfer of your mortgage to your moving bank, using our standard legal package. If you decide to use your own solicitor to carry out the work involved in the transfer of your mortgage and the solicitor's fees are more than £200, Direct Line will pay the difference up to a maximum of £200. This is a limited offer and only for transfers at my first valuation notice. Written quotations are available on request. Some mortgages may require payment of a fee to the existing lender when being transferred. The guaranteed insurance saving only applies if your current insurance is arranged by your lender and is subject to our normal underwriting criteria and corresponding levels of cover. For your added security telephone calls may be recorded and the recording kept secure.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Direct Line and the red telephone on wheels are the trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc and used with its permission.



DIRECT LINE

MORTGAGES

Affordable Healthcare

FREEPHONE QUOTING REF B17/DL12

0500 66 99 66

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL 0500 66 99 66

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL 0500

It's not every day that you find yourself sharing a table with a scissor-toothed Chinese fighting dog chewing on a lean, ground turkey Wrangler Roundup at \$2.25 (£1.40) recycled cardboard plate included. Then again, the Park Beach Cafe in Huntington Beach is not everyone's idea of what constitutes "fine dining".

Here, where the breakers of the eastern Pacific tickle the beaches of southern California, canis may come and go but the culture of pampering endures — for dogs as it does for men.

The Park Bench is a canine Quaglinos; the first restaurant in America to have a separate menu for dogs. Despite Johnny-come-lately rivals on both coasts, it is still the place in the New World for the gourmet pooch to be and be seen.

For human gastronomes, this tin-roofed shack an hour south of Los Angeles is nothing to write home about; but it is assuredly lively. By the time my companion and I had ordered brunch, old scissor-teeth had been hounded from his meal by Slash, an American pit bull, and our table had been all but pulled from under us by a doberman called Buddy.

Pepper, by contrast, was a picture of composure. A good thing, this. She was also my date. From the "canine cuisine" menu, my borrowed but very demure miniature Australian shepherd chose a Hot Diggity Dog plain, all-beef hot dog without the bun, cut up in "doggie-bite size", for \$1.25.

The waitress in the Bone Appetit T-shirt actually chose for her, explaining that simplest was best on any dog's first visit. But Pepper did sit up straight, commendably ignoring the feral hot polli. She did not flit or leave crumbs, and did not complain when I read the

paper instead of holding a proper conversation.

Anyone bothered by the gruesome parody of the Californian good life recently enacted by 39 suicidal cult members in northern San Diego should come to Park Bench in Huntington Beach for reassurance that the real thing is not dead.

Huntington Beach is everything California ever stood for: girls in bikinis in midwinter, boys in shades the better to ogle them, and cheap terracotta-coloured real estate stretching to the sea.

It is fitting that here the Golden State's obsession with creature comforts should have gone, as the followers of cult leader Marshall



Taste test: Pepper and Giles study the menu

Applewhite might have said, beyond human. Besides the Wrangler Roundup and the Hot Diggity Dog, the canine menu features Hound Dog Heaven (a bunless burger at \$1.85), a side of bacon

four rashers, \$1.85) and Chilly Paws (one scoop of vanilla ice cream for 95 cents).

There is also the option of a poochie party. For less

per dog than you would spend on one decent cappuccino in Beverly Hills, Fido and friends can celebrate their birthdays at the Park Bench (or at home, with catering trucked in), feasting on beef jerky, a choice of main course from the main menu and, for pudding, a personalised birthday cake or Chilly Paws all round. Beverage broth.

Mei Ling, the Chinese fighting dog across the table, showed just how far she had come from

making do with scraps by moving to her owner's tuna sandwich once Slash had put her off her turkey. "She needs to brush up on her table manners," a doting Sherry Bowles acknowledged as the sandwich was dismantled with a ferocity worthy of the Boxer Rebellion. "I think it's the tomatoes and pickles she's not so keen on."

It has to be. With lawsuits at two a penny, and a morbid fear of anything less than hospital-style hygiene in restaurants, state officials routinely shut down eateries at the slightest whiff of ageing lettuce. At the Park Bench, therefore, dogs may sit up to choose but must eat on the ground, on a leash, out of bowls provided. No picnics are allowed.

Buddy makes a final lunge for Frank. Pepper sighs and Mel Ling stumps into post-prandial torpor. As these privileged gourmands fall silent, Sherry Bowles picks at her pickles and swears that she once had a date with John Lennon in New York. He taught her all she knows about living in "the alpha state", she says. Oh, California.

The generation Gap

She's a billionaire's daughter who can shop anywhere yet Jemima Khan is hooked on BabyGap, says Style Editor Grace Bradberry

No matter how serious Jemima Khan's intentions, she is doomed to make fashion statements wherever she goes. First she married Imran Khan, immersed herself in Islamic culture, and started a trend for shalwar kameez. Now she has taken to the streets of Kingston upon Thames in an effort to preserve British sovereignty — she was campaigning for her father's Referendum Party — and has confirmed the supremacy of BabyGap.

As he hit the hustings on Wednesday, Sulaiman, grandson of a billionaire, wore socks (£2.50), collegiate-style sweatshirt (£14), summer fleece cardigan (£16) and tracksuit bottoms (£10), all from BabyGap.

Whatever the voters thought Mrs Khan appearing on their doorsteps, dozens of babies will have immediately recognised her son as one of them. As television presenter Emma Forbes says: "It's great because it's classless. Everyone can afford a few items." Even before daughter Lily, five months, was born, Emma had begun shopping there. "My sister told me I had to get in there before all the socks had sold out — they change every few weeks." Like Sulaiman, who was just weeks old when he wore a BabyGap suit on the cover of *Tatler*, Lily has worn the label from birth.

In many ways, we should applaud the trend. The American label is one of the great levellers among middle class mothers uniting those who wore smocking and sailor suits with those whose earliest photographs feature pink towelling from Mothercare.

The cool, sportswear-influenced styles — miniature versions of the more expensive styles we would wear ourselves — have made the label a "virtual" obsession with some mothers. Witness the success of Chiswick High Street's new BabyGap. When it opened, there was uncertainty whether it could flourish, but after just two months it had met the targets predicted for six.

Now there is talk of opening an adult store — if parents have any cash left to spend. So ubiquitous is the label that some claim "Gap" is replacing "cat" or "mat" as the first word that youngsters learn to read.

EVEN the level-headed find themselves succumbing. "I tried to dress mine in Hennes," says Maeve Haran, mother-of-three and author of *A Family Affair*. "But I found myself buying BabyGap's blue jeans. The baseball boots are great, even when the baby is too little to actually walk anywhere."

Bestsellers include anything with a logo, and in 1995 the chain introduced a range for newborns, thus hooking mothers in that pivotal stage before cash realism sets in.

For some mothers, it never does. Pamela Anderson Lee managed to spend \$692.13 (£435) in BabyGap as she beelined round dragging Ruby Wax and a BBC camera crew to tow. The voters of Pakistan would doubtless be alarmed to discover that Imran Khan's son shares his wardrobe with Brandon Lee, scion of *Baywatch*.



Street cred: Jemima Khan's son Sulaiman makes his own fashion statement with his trendy outfit

Doctor Spin is ready to see you now

Tense, nervous head-aches? Bouts of nausea?

Inability to concentrate when you turn on the radio or television?

Do you have palpitations when you see someone approaching wearing a large, frilly rosette?

You are not ill. You are suffering from electionitis, a disease with a five-year incubation period that inflicts a disfiguring rash on normal life when it erupts.

Toss aside your family health encyclopaedia. It will be no use to you during the final week of the election campaign. Use this cut-and-keep guide instead...

AN ELECTION MEDICAL GLOSSARY

Sadomasochism: the condition in which you switch over to ITN's *News At Ten* even though you have just watched the BBC's specially extended *Nine O'Clock News*. If you then switch to BBC2 for *Newsnight* you should consult a specialist.

Compulsive talking: Starts with grimaces and progresses to involuntary comments as the affliction worsens, often culminating in episodes of coprolalia (using foul language) while watching *Electoral Call* on television, especially when Gordon Brown or Michael Howard are in the hot seat.

Infantile spasms: seizure induced in politicians by Jeremy Paxman repeatedly barking the phrase, "For God's sake, answer the bloody question!"

Premature ejaculation: Unguarded comment made by Labour politician that is later "explained more fully" by Labour's rapid rebuttal unit.

And finally...

Vas deferens: but frankly, there isn't, certainly not between the Tories and Labour.

JOE JOSEPH

promise emerging from a politician's mouth is so implausible that it stinks.

Glossectomy: removal of all or part of the tongue, often prescribed by Peter Mandelson for John Prescott, Diane Abbott and Ken Livingstone.

Irritable colon: pain in the backside, such as Jack Straw in his sanctimonious moods.

Compulsive talking: Starts with grimaces and progresses to involuntary comments as the affliction worsens, often culminating in episodes of coprolalia (using foul language) while watching *Electoral Call* on television, especially when Gordon Brown or Michael Howard are in the hot seat.

Halitosis: insulting odour emitted when a manifesto

promise emerges from a politician's mouth is so implausible that it stinks.

Premeditation: disease that erupts around the dinner table when everyone suddenly becomes convinced they know the outcome of the election.

AN ELECTION MEDICAL GLOSSARY

Sadomasochism: the condition in which you switch over to ITN's *News At Ten* even though you have just watched the BBC's specially extended *Nine O'Clock News*. If you then switch to BBC2 for *Newsnight* you should consult a specialist.

Compulsive talking: Starts with grimaces and progresses to involuntary comments as the affliction worsens, often culminating in episodes of coprolalia (using foul language) while watching *Electoral Call* on television, especially when Gordon Brown or Michael Howard are in the hot seat.

Infantile spasms: seizure induced in politicians by Jeremy Paxman repeatedly barking the phrase, "For God's sake, answer the bloody question!"

Premature ejaculation: Unguarded comment made by Labour politician that is later "explained more fully" by Labour's rapid rebuttal unit.

And finally...

Vas deferens: but frankly, there isn't, certainly not between the Tories and Labour.

JOE JOSEPH

Everyone has an accident, broken down or even stolen road rage attack. SKYNET 2000 is there for you. That's because every minute of every day, our highly skilled operators are watching over you and your car. What's more, should your vehicle be broken into, stolen, or immobiliser makes the highly unlikely or indeed easy, we can track the vehicle and take the appropriate preventative action. For details call 0800 SKYNET or return the coupon. What have you got to lose?

SOMEONE TO WATCH OVER YOU

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO SKYNET 2000, SKYNET SERVICES LTD, LANE HOUSE, SKYNET 2000, SKYNET 2000

Name: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____

0171 567 2000

Definitely a catch.



DELL DIMENSION P166a

- INTEL PENTIUM® PROCESSOR 166MHz
- 16MB SDRAM
- 512K PIPELINE BURST CACHE
- 2GB HARD DRIVE
- 15" COLOUR SVA MONITOR (13.75" VIEWABLE AREA)
- INTEGRATED 53 VIRGE DX VIDEO WITH 2MB EDO VIDEO MEMORY
- MID-SIZED DESKTOP CHASSIS
- MICROSOFT® WINDOWS 95

£899 (£1,085.70)
INCL. DELIVERY & VAT

Some of our competitors claim to be offering better deals than us. But when it comes to offering so much for little, no one can catch us. Take the Dell Dimension™

P166a Power Platform. It comes with the awesome Intel Pentium® Processor

166MHz and a price tag of only £899 (£1,085.70 inc delivery and VAT). And just

to prove a point, it also includes a large 2Gb Hard Drive and a 15" monitor (13.75" vis). All in all, a better deal than anything put up by our competitors.

Call us today on 01344 724 863 and talk to the world's largest direct PC manufacturer.*

Source: IDC

DELL

TALK DIRECT TO THE NUMBER ONE.

01344 724863

Between 8am and 8pm weekdays, 10am to 4pm Sat.

Visit our website: <http://www.dell.com/uk>

Dell and the Dell logo are registered trademarks and Dell Dimension is a trademark of Dell Computer Corporation. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation. Microsoft, Windows, Office Professional 95 are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. The photographed product may not always match the specifications in this advert. Prices quoted refer to specification descriptions only. The prices listed reflect the information available at the time of going to press. Prices change frequently. All prices and specifications are subject to change without prior notice or obligation. Offer supplied with Windows 95, Dell mouse and keyboard included. Dell Computer Corporation Ltd, Milton Keynes, MK12 1RD. Offer available for a limited period only.

Philip Howard



■ A tale of two pimpernels, or: the tumbrils of Calais

We seek him here, we seek him there, Those Euros seek him everywhere. Is he in heaven? — Is he in Hell? That damned, elusive Europhil.

Citoyen Santer of the Brussels Directo-ry sighed deeply and pushed his spectacles further down his prominent nose. He had done his best to smoke out just one of those beefy *Poulards* across the Channel who would admit to liking Santer's federal vision of a *République Européenne*. He had denounced his foes as "dorm merchants", a *bon mot* that one of his charming English secretaries had given him. But *morbleu!* All that had happened was that their denunciation news sheets had sunk their teeth into his substantial *derrière*, telling him to keep his "hooter" out of their election, and "Bugger off, Belgie Beetroot!" Since then doom merchants had multiplied as fast as dragon's teeth sown by the *bonnet rouge* of CAP of Liberty on set-aside land.

Santer could not even put his ubiquitous finger on the mysterious Scarlet Europhil, whose activities might make all the difference to his campaign. Every time he got close to him, Europhil changed his disguise from fan to phobe or grin to growl. Perhaps Europhil was one of those unshaven lorry-drivers queuing sullenly to break the French fishermen's blockade. But neither their language nor their primitive *croque-monsieurs* smoked on diesel fires beside the M20 seemed *communautaire*, intelligible or even edible. Santer shivered fastidiously. *Par dieu!* Europhil surely could not be that languid aristo Seigneur Cash, who made a convincing pose around the salons and studios of London as the most boring Parliamentarian since Simon de Montfort ran his first election campaign? How about M Urd in his green Loden coat, or M Ogg in his Bulgarian swineherd's hat? And who was the romantic Lady Marguerite, Europhil's lover and enemy, in this plot?

Santer's agents reported that Europhil was but a man madly, blindly, passionately in love, and as soon as Lady Marguerite's light footstep had died away within the House of Commons, he knelt down on the terrace steps, and in the very madness of his love he kissed the places where her small foot had trodden, and the stone balustrade where her handbag had rested last. Lady Marguerite was often referred to in Santer's directives as "the most intelligent woman in Europe". Though it has to be admitted that this claim is never substantiated by anything she does or says in the books.

The Scarlet Europhil, whether disguised as Sir William Cash or as Milord Tony Marlow in his gaudy costumes (*c'est incroyable mais c'est possible*), was described as "the perfect presentation of an English gentleman". But the directive's frequent reference to the Englishness of certain qualities sounds quite unEnglish.

The trouble with both Baroness Orczy and Citoyen Santer was and is that they are distinctly unEnglish. They cannot help that, poor souls. But they do tend to get details wrong. Orczy did not see that the English were bored out of their bowlers with her waffle about the history of the French Revolution. What they wanted was more romance and adventure, more apparent *tricoteuses* driving carts said to be full of BSE but actually conveying fleeing aristocrats, and ever more bogus high-life and historical references as cavalier as Quida's.

For we English are *mordus* (fans) of romance, as can be judged from our passion for soaps and costume dramas. Citoyen Santer does not understand that for any foreigner to appear to take sides in a general election does that side harm. The English like to tear each other, but turn on any outside their tribe who join in.

The English and French love each other, really. We visit each other's countries, even for *le shopping*. Our languages, history and culture are very close. But the ancient enmity is part of an old game. Chaucer and Shakespeare played it, and so did Molière and Voltaire. At least Baroness Orczy was Hungarian enough to turn down the single payment of £30 that she was offered by an English publisher for *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. It may have faded, but her old romance has run and run. And so will the other defining Bulldog and Frog affair.



Go and vote for a change

Tessa Blackstone
sees clear red water
between the parties

With less than a week to the general election, those who tell the pollsters they don't know or don't care should relent and abandon their indifference. The first question to ask them is: "Do you want to wake up on May 2 and find that we have elected the same party for the fifth time and that Michael Howard, Douglas Hogg, Michael Portillo and Virginia Bottomley are still there? Wouldn't a new team with some new ideas be preferable to the same, tired old lot?" The second question is: "Isn't it time for a change, not just to be refreshed by new faces, new voices, new approaches to the problems we face, but also in the interest of democracy?"

As recent years have shown beyond reasonable doubt, having the same people in power for too long corrupts; it leads to arrogance and a refusal to listen; to pretension rather than genuine consultation. There is no need for reminders about ministers and former ministers who took cash for questions. But some voters may have forgotten about the arms for Iraq scandal and the Scott report, or the extent to which ministers tried to cover up the effects of BSE. Others may have forgotten just how many times Conservative ministers have been found by the courts to be in breach of the law.

Some alienated and cynical voters may reply that, while accepting the case for changing the people in power in support of a healthy democracy, it will make little or no difference to policies and priorities. Therefore, as there is nothing to choose between the parties, they will not bother to go to the polling station. They are wrong. A simple audit shows that Labour has plenty of policies that will make a difference. The jibe from the Right that Labour has no policies is claptrap. If anything, a Labour government will have difficulty in implementing the whole of its manifesto for change in a single term, which is why Mr Blair is right to work for two parliaments to put in place a programme which is more radical than some give him credit for.

Labour will modernise the constitution and reinvigorate our politics; the Tories won't. It will decentralise decision-making through devolution to Scotland and Wales; it will restore to local communities the right to exercise control over what happens in their own locality. The Tories will do nothing. Labour will tackle excessive government secrecy through a Freedom of Information Act, and stop inventing quangos which are not publicly accountable. To protect the rights of citizens it will incorporate into UK law the European Convention on Human Rights. Parliament will be reformed by getting rid of hereditary peers and making ministers more accountable in the House of Commons. The Conservatives will do none of this. They are happy with the system as it is. For those who are not happy with the way our democracy is seizing up, here is a programme of real change to vote for.

It doesn't stop there. To take a subject which hasn't been discussed much in the campaign, but which worries voters. Labour will promote community care to ensure that public services for frail and vulnerable people, including the elderly, the mentally ill and the disabled, are available to those that need them. The Conservative record on supporting those who can no longer look after themselves is dismal. Last year 40,000 elderly people had to sell their homes to pay for care in a residential home. A Royal Commission on long-term care for the elderly will be set up by Labour and a national long-term care charter will be introduced, setting out standards for local care. The elderly are the biggest users of the NHS. The Tories' internal market has led to a two-tier system in which people in the same street but with different GPs may not have the same access to their local hospital. Under Labour's local commissioning all GPs will be able to send their patients to the hospitals of their choice. Quite a few differences here, too.

Labour is committed to a welfare to work programme that starts with the young unemployed. The Conservatives are not. A windfall tax on the privatised utilities will pay for a programme to get a quarter of a million young people off the dole and, in some cases, out of trouble with the law. Without urgent action to provide these youngsters with skills and jobs, Britain will face a lost generation of marginalised, young adults with no stake in their own society. And the more "no-hoppers" there are, the more likely it is some will turn to crime.

In 1979 only one in 12 households had no one earning a wage. Today the figure is one in five. No wonder: there are a million fewer jobs than when Mr Major became Prime Minister. Labour will change the benefit system to remove the traps that discourage people from taking jobs, and provide a subsidy to employers to take on the long-term unemployed. Plenty of differences here, too.

For those who still are not sure about the differences, I could mention education, pensions, Europe, the environment, small businesses, research and development, the lottery and international aid. In all these areas there is clear red water between Labour and Conservative policies and the values that inform them. Voters have no excuse for ducking out on May 1. They should get out and vote, preferably for new policies, of which there are plenty, and for new people with a mandate to carry them out.

People in search of a party

The Tories may lose Middle Britain to new Labour. But who then will speak for the poor and the public sector?

Could the Labour Party permanently supplant the Conservative Party in the affections of Middle Britain? And could the Tories swerve off towards what we may dub the Likud Tendency? And, if so, who will occupy the ground deserted by Labour? These may prove to be the great questions whose genesis we are witnessing, without knowing it, in the spring of 1997.

Being hearsay, the remark should not be attributed, but it rings true. A Labour candidate in a rock-solid London seat was reported to me as having snapped at a tiresome and disillusioned supporter: "I don't care what you think: you've nobody to vote for but me." The remark was factless but true. I remember thinking (without voicing) much the same, when as a Conservative candidate I was tackled by unpleasantly right-wing voters in Derbyshire.

What nobody can deny — indeed the modernisers in Tony Blair's model army boast of it — is that the Labour leadership has organised for his tribe an exodus of which Moses himself would have been proud. Mr Blair has had luck — the waters of the Red Sea parted for him at a critical moment — but he has lacked neither judgment nor an overriding sense of direction. Focus groups and polling organisations his pillars of cloud and fire, he has held to his course, and on May 2 the young prophet looks likely to reach his land of milk and honey. In little more than a decade, Neil Kinnock and Mr Blair have shifted a whole great party from one place to another.

How do we describe this shift? It has lately become fashionable to abandon the vocabulary of class, and speak instead in terms of policies. We return to a pre-Marxist view of the world, imagining Britain can no longer be looked at through the prism of class interest. The change suits Blairite theorists, for an ideal or policy, once abandoned, is dead; over: finished; an ex-policy: a former idea.

But a class, abandoned, is still there. The question "When a party moves from old ground to new ground, who represents the old ground?" is not difficult for a Blairite. "It has ceased to exist. It is the past," he says — and it is notable how Mr Blair has acquired a habit for meeting substantive questions about policy with the answer, "We are not going back to the past."

I rather think, however, that although Marxism may be dead, Marxian class

analysis retains some force. Although many individuals are mobile, and class barriers by no means impenetrable, Britain at the end of the 20th century still contains huge and quite homogenous socio-economic groupings which do retain an inchoate sense of class interest. Travelling thousands of miles for *The Times* during this election campaign, parachuting into contrasting places peopled by electors in distinct and different walks of life, I do not believe that class, or class interest, is dead.

So, if new Labour have moved, where — in class terms — have they moved, and whom have they left behind? The

first part of the answer is easy. They have moved to Middle Britain, a land inhabited by people on decent incomes who do not depend much on state welfare and live orderly lives. The Conservative Party, who used to represent much of this class, have grown increasingly unlikeable, and it is perfectly possible that new Labour may put down roots here and stay, slowly strangling the Tories.

If — as seems to be the Tories' present lunatic, self-destructive instinct — the Conservative Party does not stay to fight its ground, but moves ("clear blue water" and all that) to islands where it is unchallenged, we shall see the Likud Tendency triumph in that party. It could establish itself securely with a permanent 20 per cent of the electorate composed of the rich, the mad, the bitter and the bigoted. The party could be happy there for an eternity, holding its ground, never winning outright, and wrecking other people's coalitions.

Thus are one great bloc — the middle — and another tenacious fringe — the Likud settlers — occupied, one way or another, by new Labour, too, will have to choose. New Labour, too, will have to choose, and I believe (contrary to Conservative Central Office propaganda) that he is disposed to choose as Mrs Thatcher did.

Do the poor and their public sector

still exist in Britain, and in rather large numbers. Perhaps as many as a quarter of the population come under the catch-all heading of "unpaid or underpaid, unemployed, uneducated, unwell or black" (though that is not to deny that some from all of these groups have escaped the deprivation that the catch-all implies).

This class — it includes the people who used to emigrate — though historically unempowered in British politics, has found support in an unspoken coalition with a different class, little mentioned during this election: the public sector. Many in the public sector are not poor at all, but they all share an overwhelming class interest in the disbursement of state welfare. Though nominally among the victims of high taxation, they are also, through their careers, the recipients of it.

It is hard to believe that these two classes — the poor, and those who spend taxpayers' money — do not amount, in coalition, to two fifths of the population, perhaps more. Have they been abandoned by new Labour, and do they know it? The answer is "probably" and "probably not, yet".

Tony Blair would argue that it is possible to embrace Middle Britain without deserting these classes — to occupy, so to speak, both territories. But Gordon Brown will soon be telling him, if he does not already know, that this argument may be sustainable in opposition but cannot be sustained in government.

Margaret Thatcher knew that with terrifying certitude. Thatcherism was nothing if not a rallying of "our people". She knew that you had to choose, and choose. New Labour, too, will have to choose, and I believe (contrary to Conservative Central Office propaganda) that he is disposed to choose as Mrs Thatcher did.

Do the poor and their public sector

Matthew Parris

providers have any presentiment of this? So far, I suspect, only faintly. Watch the Labour turnout on the worst council estates next Thursday; watch the inroads that the Liberal Democrats may make into the affections of the public sector.

Canvassing in Skipton and Ripley in Yorkshire yesterday with the Tory candidate, David Curry, I heard that there is some early evidence of public sector workers switching to the Liberal Democrats because they are impressed by Paddy Ashdown's pledge to turn an extra penny on income tax to good account in the education system. There must be scope for Liberal Democrats to capitalise on that, although the party will be hampered by its historical dissociation from organised Labour.

But these are early days, and only stirrings. Tony Blair's remarkable success at staving off the question is easily explained. First, most people want the Tories out. Secondly, the Labour Party is still called "the Labour Party" — isn't it?

— and most Labour candidates in winnable seats are, or were, sitting Labour MPs. It is basically the same crew. This enables Mr Blair to boast that the party has changed while insinuating — Keir Hardie and all that — that it really hasn't. Thus he wins new support while retaining the support that he had.

For the moment. But within months that straddle will become the splits. At this point Mr Blair must decide whether to stay or not. Gordon Brown will soon be telling him, if he does not already know, that this argument may be sustainable in opposition but cannot be sustained in government.

Will it be a split in the Labour Party? Will it be a surge in Liberal Democrat support? Will the false dawn of Arthur Scargill's new party yield to something less risible? Will the Tory Likud, adding English nationalism to its armoury, begin to recruit among the hopeless, where dwell the SWP and the BNP? I do not know, but the seismology could prove as interesting as any preliminary tremor next Thursday could bring.

By the end of the century, if not before, new Labour may have supplanted the Tories and a very large number of people, composing two quite mobilisable classes, will be feeling distinctly unrepresented. Something will have to give.

Will it be a split in the Labour Party? Will it be a surge in Liberal Democrat support? Will the false dawn of Arthur Scargill's new party yield to something less risible? Will the Tory Likud, adding English nationalism to its armoury, begin to recruit among the hopeless, where dwell the SWP and the BNP? I do not know, but the seismology could prove as interesting as any preliminary tremor next Thursday could bring.

Quite a few differences here, too.

Labour is committed to a welfare to work programme that starts with the young unemployed. The Conservatives are not. A windfall tax on the privatised utilities will pay for a programme to get a quarter of a million young people off the dole and, in some cases, out of trouble with the law. Without urgent action to provide these youngsters with skills and jobs, Britain will face a lost generation of marginalised, young adults with no stake in their own society.

And the more "no-hoppers" there are, the more likely it is some will turn to crime.

In 1979 only one in 12 households had no one earning a wage. Today the figure is one in five. No wonder: there are a million fewer jobs than when Mr Major became Prime Minister. Labour will change the benefit system to remove the traps that discourage people from taking jobs, and provide a subsidy to employers to take on the long-term unemployed.

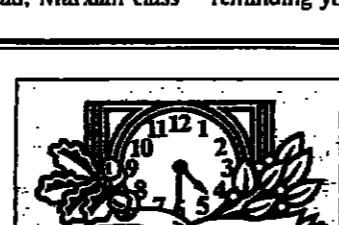
Plenty of differences here, too.

For those who still are not sure about the differences, I could mention education, pensions, Europe, the environment, small businesses, research and development, the lottery and international aid. In all these areas there is clear red water between Labour and Conservative policies and the values that inform them. Voters have no excuse for ducking out on May 1. They should get out and vote, preferably for new policies, of which there are plenty, and for new people with a mandate to carry them out.

Party politics

DISAPPOINTMENT shrouds the glass-fronted offices of ITN in London, where an election-night broadcasting party hosted by the tremendous anchorwoman Julia Somerville has been abandoned. She was to have presented some of ITN's poll day coverage from a celebrity-packed party in London, but the idea has been dropped amid allegations of insufficient interest from partygoers.

ITN admitted yesterday that the party would not be held, and that



ments after United lost 1-0 to Borussia Dortmund at Old Trafford. The ads would have featured a pint of the frothy beer, with the Dortmund badge and the word "Creamed".

There was an idea of having a party, but for programming reasons — and not for any other — it was decided not to go ahead with the project," said a spokesman for ITN. "The invitations were never sent out."

Beer we go

BODDINGTONS, the brewers, have had to scrap a £40,000 advertising campaign because Manchester United lost their European Cup semi-final. So confident were the brewers that United were going to win Wednesday's match that the advert was ready to run in the morning's local newspaper.

Frantic eleventh-hour calls were made to withdraw the advert-

was prevented by the local council, to build a laboratory, an office block and a car park on three acres of prime agricultural land at the Body Shop headquarters in Littlehampton, West Sussex.

Hope of glory

THE latest salvo in the race to succeed Cardinal Basil Hume, who under canon law must offer his resignation to the Vatican before his 75th birthday next year, comes from the super-smooth Roman Catholic Bishop in North London, the Right Rev Vincent Nichols.

Bishop Nichols, 51, whose benign looks and lustrous hair induce swoons down the aisle, does

hereupon. The driver became concerned and turned back for Auckland. When the time came to pay the full fare, Captain Lalor-Smith turned out his pockets and produced only £300, about a third of what he owed. A local court discharged him without conviction on a fraud charge. His lawyer pleaded that he wanted to return to Britain without a record, but it is not clear whether he will be required to pay the remaining amount. His funding driver will be doing only short trips from now on.

For this be the same Anita Roddick who caused local outrage two years ago when she tried, and

Bishop Nichols high aims

● Bad news for the reputation of swinging London: Stella Tennant, supermodel, has bought a flat in the West Village in New York. She plans to share it with her boyfriend, a French photographer. For all the huff and bother about London's move to the centre of the fashion world, New York, say Miss Tennant's colleagues, is still the place for the thoroughly modern mannequin.

P.H.S.

Tennant: New York bound

Baroness Blackstone is a Labour spokesman in the Lords.

Somerville — party-pooped



THE AWKWARD SQUAD

New Labour needs some old dissidents

Dissent has not been a feature of the well-oiled Mandelson machine in this contest. An iron discipline has descended upon a party that once prided itself on a sense of anarchy. To the intense irritation of Conservative Central Office, few Labour candidates have expressed deviant sentiments in their election material. Tony Blair has achieved a supremacy over his colleagues that would be the envy of all his predecessors.

That combination of charm and steel will be an asset on polling day. It may prove to be a liability in office. A party out of power for so long would be wise to seek counsel within its own ranks before embarking on its programme. Mavericks, much mocked by party managers at present, should come into their own in the next House of Commons.

In that spirit, *The Times* would commend Frank Field, Tam Dalyell, and Denzil Davies to their respective constituencies. Unlike other figures whom we have sought to highlight, their electoral prospects hardly demand outside endorsement. They have served in Parliament for 80 years between them. At the last poll their combined majorities exceeded 43,000 votes. The residents of Birkenhead, Linlithgow, and Llanelli seem unlikely to reject them now. But in another sense they are an endangered species: unconventional men of intelligence, integrity, and undoubted independence.

Frank Field has been a figure of exceptional importance in the debate over the future of social security. That much can be seen by the respect accorded to his views by Peter Lilley throughout the past Parliament. At one stage Tony Blair seemed set to place reform of the welfare state at the heart of his agenda. His associates argued that only a Labour leader could embark on radical change just as Richard Nixon, the Cold War crusader, was the sole American President who could first visit Communist China.

In this campaign Mr Blair has abandoned radicalism in favour of scaremongering

soubibes about Tory plans to "privatise pensions". It appears Nixon is travelling to China on a very slow boat indeed. That only increases the need for Mr Field. The role he plays over the next five years will be the best indication of Mr Blair's intentions for the welfare state. It is almost impossible to imagine that essential reform will take place if Mr Field remains on the backbenches.

Neither Tam Dalyell nor Denzil Davies will be offered ministerial portfolios. But both have sent warnings that should not be ignored. Mr Dalyell has opposed devolution with passion over two decades. He was the parent of the original West Lothian question. Twelve months ago he was the sole Labour MP north of the border to suggest that a Scottish Parliament should be subject to a referendum. That is now, of course, party policy. Constitutional change has the power to wreck a Blair premiership. His first twelve months might be lost in a struggle that much of the country deems irrelevant. He would do well to listen to Mr Dalyell.

The other issue with a similar explosive quality is Europe. Denzil Davies has emerged as the leading Eurosceptic within Labour ranks. His forceful dissection of the Maastricht treaty impressed all sides of the political spectrum. A former Treasury Minister, he has made a persuasive case that Labour's economic aspirations could be destroyed by hasty entry into a single currency. Much of which Robin Cook fears, Mr Davies already articulates. His voice deserves the widest audience.

Mr Blair has asked for support on the basis that what he has done for his party he can do for the country. That is not an unreasonable comparison. But Whitehall and Westminster also require different techniques from those designed to achieve dominance of Walworth Road. He might not always appreciate the advice he receives from this awkward trio. That would be no reason not to solicit it.

PRIVATE LIVES

Independent education looks beyond the election

Education is the stated priority of all three political parties. Despite that it has not played the role that it might in this election. That is not for want of difference in detail. However, the contrast is far less stark than when Labour sought to abolish private schooling. All sides now endorse the principles of choice, quality, and accountability.

Against that backdrop, the annual conference of the Independent Schools Association (ISA) opened yesterday. Like teachers, schools in the fee-paying sector are represented by several different professional bodies. The ISA membership is drawn predominantly from smaller and less exclusive establishments. Inevitably, the prospect of a Labour government loomed large over both the official and unofficial agendas.

The trends already present in independent education are likely to matter more than specific proposals from Tony Blair. After the shock of recession, the numbers seeking admission are moving upwards. That increase would have been more pronounced had it not been for grant maintained schools, many of which provide results that match their fee-paying contemporaries.

The rise in overall numbers marks a quite dramatic shift against boarding schools. The sad announcement that Carmel College in Oxfordshire — the "Jewish Eton" — will shortly close, is part of the phenomena known as the 90-minute rule: the reluctance of parents to consider boarding institutions more than a 90-minute drive distant. Headmasters have found, sometimes to their horror, that the customer is king.

Similarly, the introduction of league tables has had a stark impact. Attractive buildings and snob value are no substitute

for solid A-level achievement. Schools which had become rather complacent, confident that their status would assure their future, had little choice but to adapt or die.

It might be tempting to conclude that David Blunkett could not possibly have the impact that Margaret Thatcher has already managed. That would be true if it were not for Labour's proposal to abolish the Assisted Places Scheme. That subject really will dominate ISA deliberations this week and beyond. If implemented its effect would be two-fold. Weaker foundations, those that have not fully adjusted to the world of grant maintained schools, parental choice, and league tables, will find it difficult to replace their assisted places. Many will not be in business five years hence.

However, establishments with a reputation for academic excellence will suffer no financial hardship from the abolition of assisted places. There will be waves of wealthy families waiting in the wings to take such slots. What will be lost is diversity within those schools and opportunity for the children concerned. To a striking degree it will be the offspring from single parent families and ethnic minorities who suffer.

Labour's manifesto refers to the "apartheid" between private and public education. Yet the destruction of the Assisted Places Scheme would lead to a far more literal sense of apartheid. The private sphere would become the preserve of the rich. It is hard to reconcile that outcome with the admirable objectives for education that Mr Blair and Mr Blunkett have outlined. Independent education will remain alive and well whoever occupies Downing Street. Its character is far less certain.

Labour's manifesto refers to the "apartheid" between private and public education.

Yet the destruction of the Assisted Places Scheme would lead to a far more literal sense of apartheid. The private sphere would become the preserve of the rich. It is hard to reconcile that outcome with the admirable objectives for education that Mr Blair and Mr Blunkett have outlined. Independent education will remain alive and well whoever occupies Downing Street. Its character is far less certain.

With the Royal Mail now marking every conceivable patriotic occasion, including, next month, such bizarre achievements as Frankenstein, Dracula and other British tales of terror, bulging albums need more and more loose leaves. Speculators have moved into the market and auction houses discovered an enthusiasm for the hobby — until a Penny Black or Mauritius blue fails to deliver the promised bonanza. Now the baby-boomers, reaching retirement, are getting out their collections again. New issues abound. But stamp design rarely matches the classic plates in the Queen's collection, nor can garish photographs surpass the austere beauty of old engraved designs. Stamps should return to their roots: imitation is the best form of philately.

Stamp-collecting is enjoying a renaissance after more than a decade in the doldrums. It was enormously popular in the 1950s, and a postwar baby boom generation probably has stamp-collecting to thank for painlessly inculcating obscure historical and geographical facts: which countries made up the Portuguese empire, where Danzig was, why Edward VII was never crowned, why Weimar Germany overprinted stamps to the value of 10 billion marks and which countries call themselves Suomi and Helvetia.

Greed, however, ruined the market. Little

countries long ago discovered that gaudy pictures and frequent issues brought in ready cash. San Marino with triangular stamps, Hungary with its wildlife and idyllic Caribbean scenes of Lotus island beauty were joined by other ruthlessly commercial post offices. American collectors' agencies bought up even post ministries in the Gulf and Africa, which happily put out regular "commemoratives" of film stars or footballers entirely unknown to the correspondents whose letters they were supposed to adorn. The Crown Agents have seen philately as a export bonanza for dependent territories: without stamps Pitcairn, Tristan da Cunha and St Helena would be in even worse shape than they already are.

With the Royal Mail now marking every conceivable patriotic occasion, including, next month, such bizarre achievements as Frankenstein, Dracula and other British tales of terror, bulging albums need more and more loose leaves. Speculators have moved into the market and auction houses discovered an enthusiasm for the hobby — until a Penny Black or Mauritius blue fails to deliver the promised bonanza. Now the baby-boomers, reaching retirement, are getting out their collections again. New issues abound. But stamp design rarely matches the classic plates in the Queen's collection, nor can garish photographs surpass the austere beauty of old engraved designs. Stamps should return to their roots: imitation is the best form of philately.

Stamp-collecting is enjoying a renaissance after more than a decade in the doldrums. It was enormously popular in the 1950s, and a postwar baby boom generation probably has stamp-collecting to thank for painlessly inculcating obscure historical and geographical facts: which countries made up the Portuguese empire, where Danzig was, why Edward VII was never crowned, why Weimar Germany overprinted stamps to the value of 10 billion marks and which countries call themselves Suomi and Helvetia.

Greed, however, ruined the market. Little

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Nationality and sovereignty at issue in election debate

From the Director of The Freedom Association

Sir, Chris Smith, the Shadow Health Secretary, appears to agree with voters who object to "foreigners" like President Santer "telling us how to vote" (report, April 22).

The President of the European Commission must obviously warn against politicians who argue, even half-heartedly, for national independence. In any case, like it or not, Mr Santer shares with Mr Smith a common European citizenship: he is not a foreigner. When he retires he will be allowed to live and vote in Britain or even stand for office in our local and European elections.

Is Mr Smith, in this European Year against Racism, not going to campaign against Le Pen's French National Front? We cannot now ignore, as European citizens, the political direction taken by the constituent parts of our federal Europe. As "democratic" control shifts to a European Parliament against that, we need currencies to match economic potential, whether at the national or regional levels. Money should not be a means of suppressing economic potential. The trouble occurs when governments create it for political reasons, where there is not economic potential.

Of course, if the EU is going to widen its remit, we need a reformed decision-making structure, but that is not such a bad thing if we are limiting the areas of European competence and introducing the principle of flexibility.

Groups of countries should be allowed to go ahead in the areas they wish to develop but the onus should be on them to prove that what they want to do is in no way detrimental to the vital interests of fellow member states.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN COLEMAN,

Editor,

New European,

14-16 Carrown Road, SW8.

April 23.

From Sir Christopher Cockerell, FRS

Sir, I seem to recall Sir Edward Heath saying that history has nothing to tell us about the European Union. I am not sure that this is true. Napoleon tried to become the dictator of Europe. So did Bismarck and Hitler. Each time we had to step in.

The current proposal for Europe is to have an appointed Commission, a non-sovereign Parliament and a European bank run by non-elected people. This is a long way from a democracy and looks dangerous.

The two countries with most experience of running a democracy are the United Kingdom and the United States: in both, to slow things and make sure that new legislation has deep attention, there is a second chamber. Surely a second chamber is equally essential for the proper governing of 500 million Europeans.

To me the priority would be to persuade the Europeans to alter the organisation to a safe and proven form before there is a move to a common

Abortion broadcast

From Mr Kevin Prendergast

Sir, It is puzzling indeed that the main television channels, which regularly transmit a diet of rape, sodomy, incest, robbery, murder, suicide and pornography, should have suddenly become conscious of their responsibilities with respect to public decency and good taste and deemed that a section of the election broadcast with footage showing an actual abortion should be banned (report, April 23).

Has there been a sudden change of heart or is this yet another example of the negative bias which appears to be so frequently shown on all matters, moral or religious?

Yours etc,

KEVIN PRENDERGAST,

Hawarden House,

12b Lache Lane, Chester.

April 24.

From Mr Simon Bird

Sir, Although I do not think that shock is an appropriate means of convincing people in the debate about abortion, the decision by broadcasters not to screen parts of the Prolife party's election broadcast serves to illustrate a profound unease about abortion.

If broadcasters, who are known for pushing at the bounds of decency in dramatic presentation and not being squeamish, have reached this conclusion about a real action performed on unborn children, what are their concerns telling them?

They could act, not by cutting scenes from a party political broadcast, but by furthering informed debate so that the acceptability of abortion will diminish in our culture.

Yours faithfully,

SIMON BIRD,

71 Wilderness Road,

Earley, Reading, Berkshire.

April 24.

Underground accolade

From Mr A. R. Haydon

Sir, Belinda Archer calls London Underground "somewhat humourless" (Media, April 23) — which, no doubt, on many occasions it is, but her comment is occasioned by its refusal to display the recent advertisement containing the words "orgasm" and "foreplay".

London Underground — and I never thought I would find myself saying it — is clearly right to say that the poster "could... put people travelling with children in a difficult situation".

Belinda Archer complains of "a possibly worrying trend among media owners to become guardians of the nation's moral wellbeing". I think they have a duty, like all people of influence, to defend that very well-being.

Might there not be a possibly worrying trend among journalists to let the nation's moral wellbeing go?

Yours faithfully,

A. R. HAYDON,

The Old Hall Wing,

22 The Street, Rockland St Mary,

Nr Norwich, Norfolk.

April 24.

that Europe needs a common currency — and would need it even if the EU had never come into existence — for European trade. I am also convinced that we need currencies to match economic potential, whether at the national or regional levels. Money should not be a means of suppressing economic potential. The trouble occurs when governments create it for political reasons, where there is not economic potential.

currency and a further loss of sovereignty.

An "English" American, Benjamin Franklin, was largely responsible for the brilliant United States Constitution. A modern Franklin could do the same for Europe.

Yours truly,

CHRISTOPHER COCKERELL,

16 Prospect Place,

Hythe, Southampton.

April 23.

From Mr John M. Kennedy

Sir, The letter (April 19) from Mr Roy Hattersley, Lord Howe and Sir David Steel on behalf of the European Movement warning us of the changes to Britain outside Europe says it all.

The only reasons they put forward

against leaving Europe are those stemming from Europe as a free-trade zone, increased business costs, foreign investment deterred, etc. Most people in Britain would, I am sure, fully support a free-trade zone and, indeed, probably think that was all they voted for in the last referendum on the Common Market, as it was then styled.

The letter makes no mention whatsoever of the political and social advantages that might stem from Britain being a part of a federal European Union. I wonder why?

Yours faithfully,

JOHN KENNEDY,

9 Orme Court, W2.

April 21.

From Mr Michael S. Bruce

Sir, Mr Hattersley and his distinguished colleagues are, of course, quite right: Britain should be in and leading Europe. Foolishly, the French and the Germans do not share their view. Europe is led without much regard for Britain's interests or wishes.

Years of negotiation under Tory and Labour governments have failed to alter this situation. What do Mr Hattersley and his friends propose to do about it?

Yours faithfully,

M. S. BRUCE,

3 Wistow Road, Selby, Yorkshire.

April 23.

Support for US sanctions on Burma

From Mrs Glenys Kinnock, MEP for South West Wales East (Socialist Group [Labour])

Sir, I welcome the US announcement of the imposition of sanctions against the Burmese military regime over the abuse of human rights in Burma (report, April 23). We must now look to European countries to follow their lead, building on the decision on March 24 to withdraw Burma's preferential market access to the EU.

In recent months Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has repeatedly urged Washington to impose economic sanctions. Attacks on National League for Democracy members have increased significantly and become more menacing.

There has been increasing concern for her safety and that of her supporters, who face intimidation, harassment, arbitrary arrest, imprisonment and threats to their welfare and

that of their families, including the threat of torture and murder.

The US decision will mean a great deal to the opposition led by Daw Aung. Labour will put the protection and promotion of human rights at the centre of our foreign policy; in the party's national executive committee statement at last year's conference the British Government was called upon to exert whatever pressure it could in order to bring about an end to the repression and the restoration of full human and political rights in Burma.



COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 24: General Sir Charles Guthrie was received by the Queen upon his appointment as Chief of the Defence Staff and remained to luncheon.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President, this afternoon attended a luncheon followed by the Annual General Meeting of King George's Fund for Sailors at the Mansion House, London, EC2.

The Prince of Wales, on behalf of The Queen, held an Investiture at Cardiff Castle this morning.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 24: The Duke of Edinburgh, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this evening attended the Annual General Meeting at 23 Kensington Square, London W8.

YORK HOUSE
April 24: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, this morning attended the British Means Business Workshop on mobilising exports for South Africa at the Mount Nelson Hotel and later made a tour of Robben Island and its museum.

His Royal Highness this afternoon attended lunch with Mr Chris Nissen, Western Cape Provincial Minister for Economic Affairs, and later visited the Bayview clockwork radio factory.

The Duke of Kent this evening attended a British Telecom Global Challenge Round the World Yacht Race dinner at the residence of the British High Commissioner, Upper Hillwood Road, Bishops Court.

The Duchess of Kent Patron, United Kingdom Committee for United Nations Children's Fund, this evening left London Heathrow airport for Johannesburg, South Africa.

Mrs Julian Timmins was in attendance.

The Prince of Wales later visited the Old Library, St David's Hall, the Hayes, and met trustees of the Cardiff Old Library Trust and was briefed on plans to create a centre for visual arts at the Old Library.

His Royal Highness, Patron, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, afterwards visited BBC Llandaff and watched a rehearsal of the orchestra.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 24: The Prince of Wales today visited Cardiff and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of South Glamorgan (Captain Norman Lloyd-Edwards RN).

His Royal Highness, Chancellor, this afternoon toured the University of Wales's Glamorgan Building and met staff and students.

The Prince of Wales later visited the Old Library, St David's Hall, the Hayes, and met trustees of the Cardiff Old Library Trust and was briefed on plans to create a centre for visual arts at the Old Library.

His Royal Highness, Patron, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, afterwards visited BBC Llandaff and watched a rehearsal of the orchestra.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Colonel-in-Chief, will attend the annual dinner of the Intelligence Corps at Painters' Hall at 7.05.

The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment), will visit the First Battalion, Cinque Ports Training Area, Lydd Camp, Romney Marsh, at 10.00.

The Princess Margaret will attend a concert and dinner in aid of the St George's School, Windsor Castle, Development Campaign, at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, at 7.00.

Appointment

Mr Mungo Campbell, Assistant Keeper of Prints and Drawings at the National Library of Scotland, has been appointed Deputy Director of the Hunterian Art Gallery at Glasgow University.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev James MacNaughton, Vicar, Ambleside, to be Team Rector, Crummelington (Newcastle).

The Rev Ian Pallett, Rector, Morton and Stretton: to be also Priest-in-charge, Shifnal (Derry).

The Rev Jimi Ramsden, Curate, Bray St Michael w/Braywood: to be Rector, West Woodhay w/Entwistle, Hamstead, Marshall, Inkpen and Combe (Oxford).

The Rev Sheilagh Stacey, to be Priest-in-charge, Carleton and East Hardwick (Wakefield).

The Rev Tony Vignat, Vicar, Methil (Edinburgh): to be Vicar, St John and St Stephen, Reading (Oxford).

The Rev Christopher Walker, Vicar, St Stephen Chatham: to be Rector, St Nicholas, Chislehurst (Rochester).

The Rev Dave Waller, Chaplain, University of Greenwich (Southwark): to be Priest-in-charge, St Matthew's, Vauxhall (London).

School news

Danes Hill School, Oxborough

Danes Hill School, Oxborough, Surrey, would be delighted to hear from former pupils who would be interested in receiving further information about the Danes Hill Golden Jubilee celebrations this summer. Please contact the Headmaster's Secretary on 01372 542340.

Giggleswick School
Summer Term began on Monday, April 21. Mr David Stockdale, QC, MA, has succeeded Lord Shunleworth as Chairman of Governors. The Bishop of Bradford

will take the Confirmation Service on Sunday, May 4. Speech Day will be on Saturday, May 24, when Mrs Julia Cleverdon, the Chief Executive of Business in the Community, will be the Guest of Honour. There will be a special Old Giggleswickian Reunion for 1965-74 Leavers on Saturday, May 17, and Old Giggleswickians Day will be on Saturday, July 5. The Chapel Choir will sing Brumus' Requiem in Bradford Cathedral on Sunday, July 6. Information on these events is available from the Headmaster's Secretary 01729 52345.

Legal appointment

Mrs Helen Mary Hughes to be a Circuit Judge, assigned to the Midland and Oxford Circuit.

DEATHS

ARCHER - On Monday 21st April 1997 at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, to Lorna (née Taylor) and Jonathan, a daughter, Isabella Eleanor St. George.

DARBY - On Monday 6th April 1997 at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, to Lorna (née Taylor) and Jonathan, a daughter, Isabella Eleanor St. George.

DUNES - On 5th April 1997 in France, to Jane and Justin, a daughter, Lucy, Jane MacAllister, sister to John, Tom, Sam and Augustine.

FOORD - On April 21st, to Christopher (née Lord) and Barbara, a son, Alwyn, 16, and a daughter, Sophie, 13.

GATHWARD - On April 18th at Royal Surrey County, to Sarah (née Carterberg) and Helen, a son, Daniel, a brother for Tristam.

HOLTON - On April 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Julie and Spencer, a son, Alwyn, 16, and a daughter, Sophie, 13.

HOWES - On April 20th 1997, to Karen and Andrew, a daughter, Isabella Catherine St. George, a beautiful sister for Georgia.

KNOWLES - On April 22nd 1997, to Clare (née Ecuador) and Jonathan, a son, Sam, a daughter, Sophie.

MATTHEWS - On April 21st at The Royal Surrey County Hospital, to Helen (née Morgan) and Tim, a son, William, Thomas Morgan, a brother for Lydia.

MCCRACKEN - On April 23rd 1997 at the University of Michigan Hospital, to John and Jan, a son, Adam James Fleming, a brother for Sophie and Lucy.

SYKES - On 23rd April, to Susan and (née Lawton) and James, a son, Matthew Oliver.

TANNER - On 20th April at St Mary's Hospital, to Victoria (née Tait) and Alan, a daughter, Lara Frances Annetta.

VOICE - To Sally and Michael on 21st April a beautiful son, Cameron, a brother for Kerry.

70th Harrogate Spring Flower Show

Daffodils come in from the cold to win

BY ALAN TOOGOOD, HORTICULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

IT IS a difficult season for daffodil exhibitors, with flowering several weeks earlier than normal, yet a display of high quality daffodil blooms has been judged best exhibit at the 70th Harrogate Spring Flower Show, which opened yesterday.

Staged by J. Walker's Bulbs, of Holbeach, Lincolnshire, the 55 cultivars, held in cold storage prior to the show, include the new pure white small cupped "Carrara".

R.V. Roger, of Pickering, North Yorkshire, specialises in unusual and fancy daffodil. He is showing for the first time a split corona daffodil, "Dolly Mollinger", whose flowers look like a fried egg and the highly fragrant *Narcissus Odoratus* "Campanelli".

The horticultural trade section, well supported by local nurseries, is strong on spring flowering woodland garden plants and alpines. An extensive display of these plants has been staged by Kettlesing Nurseries of Kettlesing, Harrogate, and features *Meconopsis* or Himalayan poppies, the familiar blue species plus rarities such as red flowered

Meconopsis Punicea and diminutive *M. Delavayi* with violet coloured blooms.

The woodland gardens staged by the Harrogate, feature foxgloves, which normally flower in summer. To get the plants in flower for this show involved forcing them in a warm greenhouse.

A garden created by the Great Houses and Gardens of Yorkshire group gives a taste of the horticulture, history and heritage which can be experienced at more than 35 historic venues throughout Yorkshire, and a Chinese inspired garden with western planting, by the Historic Gardens of Yorkshire Group

acknowledges the international diversity of garden plants.

The exhibit of bulbs and other plants

from Jacques Armand, of Stanmore, Middlesex, has a strong woodland garden theme and includes choice hardy orchids such as the brick red monkey orchid.

A number of out-of-season plants are featured, including delphiniums from C. and J. Parton of Methley, West Yorkshire. It takes great skill to get the

summer flower perennials into bloom in April.

The woodland gardens staged by the Harrogate, feature foxgloves, which normally flower in summer. To get the plants in flower for this show involved forcing them in a warm greenhouse.

A garden created by the Great Houses and Gardens of Yorkshire group gives a taste of the horticulture, history and heritage which can be experienced at more than 35 historic venues throughout Yorkshire, and a Chinese inspired garden with western planting, by the Historic Gardens of Yorkshire Group

acknowledges the international diversity of garden plants.

The exhibit of bulbs and other plants

from Jacques Armand, of Stanmore, Middlesex, has a strong woodland garden theme and includes choice hardy orchids such as the brick red monkey orchid.

A number of out-of-season plants are featured, including delphiniums from C. and J. Parton of Methley, West Yorkshire. It takes great skill to get the

Memorial services

Earl of Portland
A service of thanksgiving for the life of the Earl of Portland was held yesterday in Harrow School Chapel. The Rev James Power, School Chaplain, officiated. Lady Anna Bentinck, daughter, read *The Prophets* by Kahili Gibran.

Mr Noel Diacono, Mr Vernon Sullivan, Mr James Lovelock and the Right Rev Kenneth Cragg gave addresses. Among others present were:

Jenifer, Countess of Portland and Countess of Portland; son and daughter-in-law, Lady Sorrie Bentinck (daughter, Lady Brygida van der Wyck Bentinck); Lady Alexandra Cavendish-Bentinck.

The Earl and Countess of Portland; Lady and Lady Maureen Fellowes; Mr William Pariente; Mr Tony Arnaraiding and other members of the family and friends.

Mr Ralph W. Selby
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Ralph Walford Selby, former diplomat, was held yesterday in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks. The Rev Lesley Bryan officiated, assisted by the Rev Nigel O'Connor, Lieutenant

anti-Colonel Lord Wynford read the lesson and Mrs Virginia Knowles, daughter, read *On His Blindness* by John Milton. Vice-Admiral Sir John Lea gave an address. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs was represented by Sir John Birch and the Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Diplomatic Service by Mr Francis Richards. Among others present were:

Contessa Pamela Cavazza and Mrs Cynthia Selby (daughters); Mr Christopher and Mrs Christopher of Portland; son and daughter-in-law, Lady Sorrie Bentinck (daughter, Lady Brygida van der Wyck Bentinck); Lady Alexandra Cavendish-Bentinck.

The Earl and Countess of Portland; Lady and Lady Maureen Fellowes; Mr William Pariente; Mr Tony Arnaraiding and other members of the family and friends.

Mr Ralph W. Selby
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Ralph Walford Selby, former diplomat, was held yesterday in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks. The Rev Lesley Bryan officiated, assisted by the Rev Nigel O'Connor, Lieutenant

anti-Colonel Lord Wynford read the lesson and Mrs Virginia Knowles, daughter, read *On His Blindness* by John Milton. Vice-Admiral Sir John Lea gave an address. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs was represented by Sir John Birch and the Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Diplomatic Service by Mr Francis Richards. Among others present were:

Contessa Pamela Cavazza and Mrs Cynthia Selby (daughters); Mr Christopher and Mrs Christopher of Portland; son and daughter-in-law, Lady Sorrie Bentinck (daughter, Lady Brygida van der Wyck Bentinck); Lady Alexandra Cavendish-Bentinck.

The Earl and Countess of Portland; Lady and Lady Maureen Fellowes; Mr William Pariente; Mr Tony Arnaraiding and other members of the family and friends.

Mr Jeremy Maas
A memorial service for Mr Jeremy Stephen Maas, author and art dealer, was held yesterday at St George's Hanover Square. The Rev W. Alkin officiated.

Mrs Henry Strut, daughter, read from the works of Joyce Grenfell, Mr Rupert Maas, son, read from the works of Stephen Spender, and Mr Jonathan Maas, son, also gave a reading. Mr Barry Humphries paid tribute and Mr Nicolas Barker gave an address.

Mr Jeremy Maas
A memorial service for Mr Jeremy Stephen Maas, author and art dealer, was held yesterday at St George's Hanover Square. The Rev W. Alkin officiated.

Mrs Henry Strut, daughter, read from the works of Joyce Grenfell, Mr Rupert Maas, son, read from the works of Stephen Spender, and Mr Jonathan Maas, son, also gave a reading. Mr Barry Humphries paid tribute and Mr Nicolas Barker gave an address.

University news

Manchester
The following to be Pro Vice-Chancellor for three years from September 1st: Professor P. D. Gunnell, Professor N. H. F. Wilson. Professor Katharine M. Perera has been re-appointed as Pro Vice-Chancellor for three years from September 1st.

Appointments to chairs

Dr P. H. Hetherington in Semitic Studies, to be Professor of Semitic Studies in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies.

Dr J. Morgan, Reader in Sociology, to be Professor of Sociology in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies.

Dr J. Morgan, Reader in Sociology, to be Professor of Sociology in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies.

Dr J. Morgan, Reader in Sociology, to be Professor of Sociology in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies.

Dr J. Morgan, Reader in Sociology, to be Professor of Sociology in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies.

Dr J. Morgan, Reader in Sociology, to be Professor of Sociology in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies.

Dr J. Morgan, Reader in Sociology, to be Professor of Sociology in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies.

Dr J. Morgan, Reader in Sociology, to be Professor of Sociology in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies.

Dr J. Morgan, Reader in Sociology, to be Professor of Sociology in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies.

Dr J. Morgan, Reader in Sociology, to be Professor of Sociology in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies.

Dr J. Morgan, Reader in Sociology, to be Professor of Sociology in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies.

Dr J. Morgan, Reader in Sociology, to be Professor of Sociology in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies.

Dr J. Morgan, Reader in Sociology, to be Professor of Sociology in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies.

Dr J. Morgan, Reader in Sociology, to be Professor of Sociology in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies.

Dr J. Morgan, Reader in Sociology, to be Professor of Sociology in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies.

Dr J. Morgan, Reader in Sociology, to be Professor of Sociology in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies.

Dr J. Morgan, Reader in Sociology, to be Professor of Sociology in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies.

Dr J. Morgan, Reader in Sociology, to be Professor of Sociology in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies.

Dr J. Morgan, Reader in Sociology, to be Professor of Sociology in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies.

Dr J. Morgan, Reader in Sociology, to be Professor of Sociology in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies.

Dr J. Morgan, Reader in Sociology, to be Professor of Sociology in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies.

Dr J. Morgan, Reader in Sociology, to be Professor of Sociology in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies.

Dr J. Morgan, Reader in Sociology, to be Professor of Sociology in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies.

Dr J. Morgan, Reader in Sociology, to be Professor of Sociology in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies.

Dr J. Morgan, Reader in Sociology, to be Professor of Sociology in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies.

</

NEWS

Tories condemn Blair's 'lies'

■ Tony Blair was accused of telling "bare-faced, despicable lies" yesterday as the general election campaign degenerated to a level of bitterness and abuse rarely seen in British politics. Stung by claims by the Labour leader that the Tories intended to abolish the state pension, the Prime Minister last night led a barrage of attacks. John Major said that the Labour leadership were "plain liars". Brian Mawhinney, the Tory chairman, and Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, accused Mr Blair of lying over pensions and VAT. Pages 1, 9-16, 22, 23

Woman, 63, is oldest to have baby

■ A 63-year-old Californian who lied about her age to get fertility treatment became the world's oldest woman on record to have a baby. The unidentified Filipino mother's 6lb 5oz daughter was delivered safely. Page 1

Roman villa found

What may be the largest late Roman villa in Britain has been discovered on a building site near Swindon. Page 1

Yellow peril

There was sweet revenge for Britain's motorists when George Musgrave fell victim to his own invention, the yellow line. Page 1

Widowers' battle

Two widowers have lodged claims against the Government after being denied payments and allowances available only to be-reaved women. The Treasury says giving equal rights could cost £490 million a year. Page 2

Children cheat death

Two children escaped death by minutes when a 100ft-deep hole opened up in the garden of their home. The boy and girl had just left their sandpit when the ground slipped into a 30ft-wide water-filled gap. Page 3

Revenge is brief

A woman who found the lover she met through a dating agency was married is threatening the agency with legal action. She also sewed the words "lying bastard" into a pair of his underpants. Page 5

Charity payout

Charities are paying huge salaries to executives recruited to run them as successful businesses, a survey has found. The best paid received £192,000 last year. Page 6

TV addicts urged to kick the habit

■ Television viewers were urged to place their television sets in the coldest and most uncomfortable room in their homes for the start of Turn Off TV Week. The pressure group White Dot wants addicts to kick their habit for seven days and devote leisure time to more creative pursuits. The group says the prevalence of television is eroding family life. Page 5

Housing benefit

A former secretary planned and built a £200,000 five-bedroom house while living in a housing association flat and claiming rent benefit. Page 7

Malnourished Britons

Many British children are threatened with malnutrition in the next century and many people on low incomes are eating more poorly now than in the 1980s, two reports claim. Page 8

Accord limits troops

The presidents of Russia, China and three Central Asian republics signed an agreement limiting troop numbers in their border regions. Page 17

Bones of contention

The Moscow Palaeontological Institute has accused a British university of borrowing the remains of nine flying reptiles from the Jurassic era and refusing to return them. Page 17

Bomb trial warning

The trial of the chief suspect in the Oklahoma City bombing opened in earnest with warnings to the families of victims that testimony would include graphic and chilling evidence. Page 18

Missile menace

Cruise missiles could become the favourite weapon of rogue states, creating a "major security challenge" for the West. A British defence institute says. Page 19

Barclays: The bank has told customers that it is not prepared to have retail banking in euros ready for early monetary union. Page 27

THE TIMES 2

INSIDE
SECTION
2
TODAY



ECONOMICS

Anatole Kaletsky
finds French comfort
for Eurosceptics
PAGE 31



EDUCATION

Are our young
musicians losing a
chance to learn?
PAGE 41



SPORT

United reflect on
net losses in
European Cup
PAGE 43-52

TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
PAGES
50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY APRIL 25 1997

Tunnel's refinance proposals attacked

By JASON NISSE

EUROTUNNEL was given a warning yesterday that its £2.2 billion refinancing plans do not go far enough.

The proposals, which Eurotunnel said were back on track despite revealing full-year losses of £685 million, would cut its £8.7 billion of debt by £1.1 billion immediately, and by another £1.1 billion in six years' time.

Richard Hannah, transport analyst at UBS Securities, said: "The proposals are not sufficiently robust to last. Shareholders could be looking at another tranche of refinancing within a few years."

The updated plans, which are dependent on Eurotunnel meeting the turnover targets it set before last November's fire, have been agreed by the steering group of six banks but will not go before the 225-strong banking syndicate until October. Three shareholder groups in France are planning to block the proposals.

However, Robert Malpas, Eurotunnel's co-chairman, said he was hoping to win investors round by securing an extension to Eurotunnel's licence to operate the tunnel, which has 65 years to run.

Yesterday's figures showed turnover for 1996 up 71 per cent to £483 million. The operating loss was cut from £200 million to £33 million and the pre-tax loss from £924 million to £685 million.

Analysts were concerned about the first quarter of 1997 when turnover dropped from £100 million to £75.5 million, which, despite the fire, was below expectations.

Traffic figures for Le Channel Tunnel, which carries cars, have recovered to 80 per cent of their pre-fire level but analysts said the test would be the reopening of the tunnel for freight in mid-June.

Best for shareholders, page 31



Andrew Regan, left, Allan Green, top left, and David Chambers, top right, with wives and guests at a function in 1995

Regan ends bid as Nomura pulls out

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

ANDREW REGAN and David Lyons have ditched their bid to take over the Co-operative Wholesale Society after losing the support of Nomura, the Japanese bank that had been willing to lend them £1.2 billion.

CWS, far from being pacified by the move, reacted by announcing the start of criminal proceedings against the two men and against Allan Green, the CWS executive who admits that he supplied Mr Regan and Mr Lyons with confidential information.

CWS accused Mr Green of theft and Mr Regan and Mr Lyons of "aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring the theft", as well as handling stolen property. CWS said the case has been put before a High Court hearing today at which a judge will decide whether to uphold an injunction stopping them from making use of material obtained from Mr Green.

CWS is also beginning civil

proceedings against Hambros Bank, which advised Galileo, the company set up by Mr Regan and Mr Lyons to carry out the takeover, and Travers Smith Braithwaite, Galileo's solicitors. CWS said "We have been advised that there is clear evidence that both these organisations acted in breach of an equitable obligation of confidentiality to CWS. There was no credible grounds for believing that there was any legitimate basis for Mr Regan to have any such documents."

Mr Regan, who heads the Guernsey-based Lanica Trust, and Mr Lyons would not comment yesterday. A spokesman said that they had been advised not to speak ahead of a High Court hearing today at which a judge will decide whether to uphold an injunction stopping them from making use of material obtained from Mr Green.

The payment was made for his help in arranging the extension of a contract between CWS and Hobson, a

company run by Mr Regan, which bought the CWS food manufacturing operations. Mr Zimet, who has been in Israel, returned to the UK yesterday. A spokesman said that on the advice of his lawyers he was unwilling to talk about the deal.

Galileo's official line was that it had decided to end the bid after directors of the CWS declined on Wednesday to put its proposal to members. Nomura, which declined to make any comment, is believed to have given Galileo until 9am yesterday to come up with signed assurances about the deal, about Mr Regan's bona fides and particularly about the earlier cash payment of £2.4 million made to a middleman, Ronald Zimet.

The payment was made for his help in arranging the extension of a contract between CWS and Hobson, a

Pennington, page 29

Discount move knocks Laura Ashley shares

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SHARES in Laura Ashley, the fashion retailer, plunged almost 30 per cent yesterday after the company said that this year's profits would be hit by a decision to sell its spring and summer clothing at discount prices.

The collection, which showed a move away from the flowery prints that made Laura Ashley famous, was the first to be produced by the design team put together by Ann Iverson, its American chief executive.

The warning led analysts to cut profit forecasts from about £25 million to as low as £18 million. The price markdowns will cost the company about £4 million, while increased advertising in America is expected to cost up to £3 million. The shares fell 41p to close at 104p after touching a low of 94.5p.

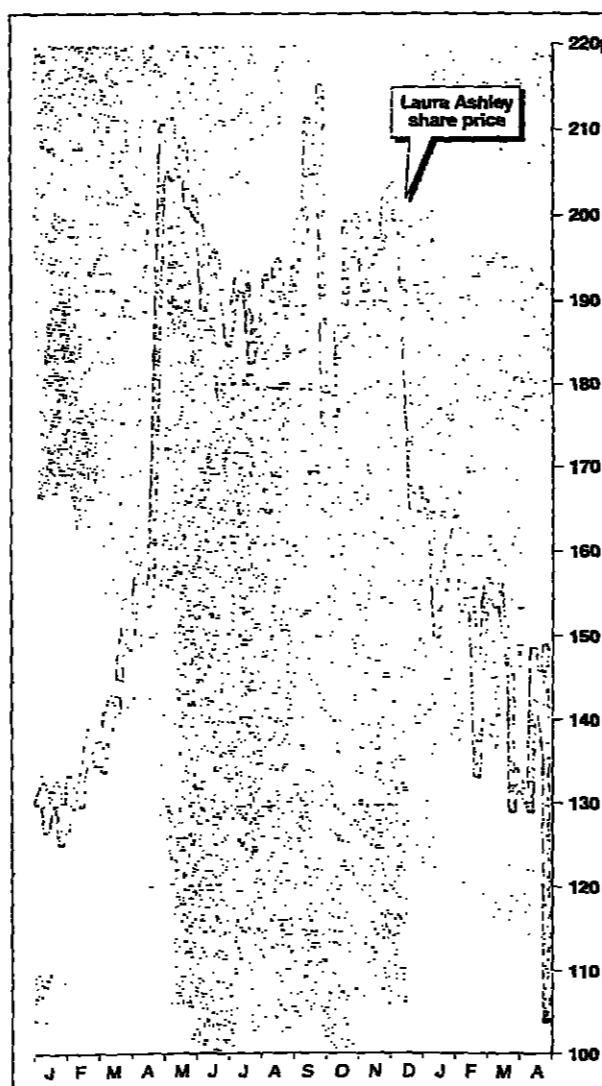
Mrs Iverson, who joined Laura Ashley nearly two years ago with a brief to update the company, said over-aggressive sales targets were the main reason for the price markdowns. She added that a slower than expected new opening programme in the

US had also meant too much stock building up. "It is an over-buy issue, not a design issue. I am very supportive of the design change and confident of the direction." The problem would not extend into the second half of this year, she said.

However, analysts were concerned that apart from discounting Laura Ashley was trying to bring down prices to a point where it could compete with the likes of Marks & Spencer and Next. One said: "Next imports from the Far East and is not saddled with Welsh factories, so it could afford to sacrifice a bit of margin and give Laura Ashley a bloody nose."

The company yesterday reported a sharp rise in profits last year. In the 12 months to January 25, pre-tax profit rose to £16.2 million from £10.3 million. Earnings per share were 4.28p (2.97p) and the final dividend of 6.6p, payable on July 4, gives a full-year payout of 10.5p.

Pennington, page 29



Carby's £600,000 payoff

By MARIJANNE CURPHEY

KEITH CARBY, one of the co-founders of J Rothschild Assurance and a key player in its six-year history, is to leave the company, in which he has a £10 million stake, with a £600,000 payoff. He declined to explain the reasons for his departure, scheduled for July 4, and said he was "looking for new challenges".

Ten days ago JRA announced a reverse takeover of St James's Place Capital (SJPC), the holding company, to bring JRA to the stock market and realise personal fortunes for Mr Carby, 50, and Sir Mark Weinberg and Mike Wilson, co-founders.

Under the restructuring deal Mr Carby was to remain managing director of JRA and sell 20 per cent of his stake to Prudential, netting him an immediate £2.4 million. He publicly pledged not to sell the remaining 80 per cent of his stake in JRA for 12 months.

SJPC said yesterday: "Having established his financial independence, he has now agreed with the company that it would be in everyone's best interest to set a firm date for his departure."

Created a niche in commodity trading and finance in Russia under the guidance of Masoud Alkhani, its Iranian-born chief executive. "This shows a massive change of attitude," said Mr Alkhani. "Two years ago you could not raise £500,000 for Russia without collateral in the West."

In dealing with the financiers, Gazprom has been advised by Middlesex Holdings, a small quoted company based in north London. In February Dresdner Bank led a consortium of 19 banks in lending \$2.5 billion

to Gazprom. The money is to be used to pay for a 3,000-mile pipeline being constructed from Gazprom's giant gasfields in Siberia to western Europe. On top of this, Gazprom has massive tax bills outstanding, which are reported to exceed \$4.5 billion, and are due to pay \$2 billion of this in the next few months.

The Russian Government has a 40 per cent stake in Gazprom and there has been talk of the group raising money via the London stock market.

Barclays breaks ranks with banks on preparing for monetary union

By OLIVER AUGUST

BARCLAYS BANK has broken ranks with the banking industry and warned customers that it is not preparing to have euro retail banking services ready for early monetary union. Other top banks say they would offer euro accounts from the start of a single currency.

In the absence of a political decision, Barclays does not expect sterling to join the euro in the first wave and does not want to waste money.

Its stand goes against Bank of England recommendations published yesterday. These suggest that banks should go ahead so that they can start euro operations if needed.

Andrew Buxton, chairman of Barclays, said: "We won't have converted our counters so that they can run on dual currencies, which is what is required just before the changeover, but we might be able to meet that provided a decision was taken in the very near future. As time goes on we will find it more difficult to meet that."

Barclays said it need not be ready for the earliest start date, January 1, 1999, because Britain is unlikely to join then. Mr Buxton told the *Today* programme on BBC Radio 4: "I think that Britain should not join in the first round."

Other high street banks are preparing for full euro services irrespective of Britain's position. Margaret Soden, senior manager of monetary union planning at Midland, said: "We will be offering euro accounts from January 1999. We are preparing for both scenarios. You would expect a major UK bank to do so."

NatWest is also preparing for a full conversion to the euro in 1999. A spokesman said: "We are planning regardless of whether we think

the UK will go into monetary union. It would appear improbable that the UK would join in 1999 but being a sizeable financial institution we nevertheless prepare for it."

The cost of converting

counter services is holding Barclays back. A spokeswoman said: "We have held back from investing in changing the system as there hasn't been a clear decision whether the UK will be in from the start."

Barclays has invested £40 million to prepare its wholesale banking operations. The cost of changing the retail side is estimated to be about £200 million. The spokeswoman said Mr Buxton was in full agreement with the rest of the board on the issue.

The Bank of England's report, *Practical Issues Arising from the Introduction of the Euro*, sets a timetable for euro-denominated retail payment systems. It says banks should aim to "make the necessary amendments to the infrastructure by January 1, 1999".

Barclays said it need not be ready for the earliest start date, January 1, 1999, because Britain is unlikely to join then. Mr Buxton told the *Today* programme on BBC Radio 4: "I think that Britain should not join in the first round."

Other high street banks are preparing for full euro services irrespective of Britain's position. Margaret Soden, senior manager of monetary union planning at Midland, said: "We will be offering euro accounts from January 1999. We are preparing for both scenarios. You would expect a major UK bank to do so."

NatWest is also preparing for a full conversion to the euro in 1999. A spokesman said: "We are planning regardless of whether we think

the UK will go into monetary union. It would appear improbable that the UK would join in 1999 but being a sizeable financial institution we nevertheless prepare for it."

The cost of converting

counter services is holding Barclays back. A spokeswoman said: "We have held back from investing in changing the system as there hasn't been a clear decision whether the UK will be in from the start."

Barclays has invested £40 million to prepare its wholesale banking operations. The cost of changing the retail side is estimated to be about £200 million. The spokeswoman said Mr Buxton was in full agreement with the rest of the board on the issue.

The Bank of England's report, *Practical Issues Arising from the Introduction of the Euro*, sets a timetable for euro-denominated retail payment systems. It says banks should aim to "make the necessary amendments to the infrastructure by January 1, 1999".

Barclays said it need not be ready for the earliest start date, January 1, 1999, because Britain is unlikely to join then. Mr Buxton told the *Today* programme on BBC Radio 4: "I think that Britain should not join in the first round."

Other high street banks are preparing for full euro services irrespective of Britain's position. Margaret Soden, senior manager of monetary union planning at Midland, said: "We will be offering euro accounts from January 1999. We are preparing for both scenarios. You would expect a major UK bank to do so."

NatWest is also preparing for a full conversion to the euro in 1999. A spokesman said: "We are planning regardless of whether we think

the UK will go into monetary union. It would appear improbable that the UK would join in 1999 but being a sizeable financial institution we nevertheless prepare for it."

The cost of converting

counter services is holding Barclays back. A spokeswoman said: "We have held back from investing in changing the system as there hasn't been a clear decision whether the UK will be in from the start."

Barclays has invested £40 million to prepare its wholesale banking operations. The cost of changing the retail side is estimated to be about £200 million. The spokeswoman said Mr Buxton was in full agreement with the rest of the board on the issue.

The Bank of England's report, *Practical Issues Arising from the Introduction of the Euro*, sets a timetable for euro-denominated retail payment systems. It says banks should aim to "make the necessary amendments to the infrastructure by January 1, 1999".

Barclays said it need not be ready for the earliest start date, January 1, 1999, because Britain is unlikely to join then. Mr Buxton told the *Today* programme on BBC Radio 4: "I think that Britain should not join in the first round."

Other high street banks are preparing for full euro services irrespective of Britain's position. Margaret Soden, senior manager of monetary union planning at Midland, said: "We will be offering euro accounts from January 1999. We are preparing for both scenarios. You would expect a major UK bank to do so."

NatWest is also preparing for a full conversion to the euro in 1999. A spokesman said: "We are planning regardless of whether we think

the UK will go into monetary union. It would appear improbable that the UK would join in 1999 but being a sizeable financial institution we nevertheless prepare for it."

The cost of converting

counter services is holding Barclays back. A spokeswoman said: "We have held back from investing in changing the system as there hasn't been a clear decision whether the UK will be in from the start."

Barclays has invested £40 million to prepare its wholesale banking operations. The cost of changing the retail side is estimated to be about £200 million. The spokeswoman said Mr Buxton was in full agreement with the rest of the board on the issue.

The Bank of England's report, *Practical Issues Arising from the Introduction of the Euro*, sets a timetable for euro-denominated retail payment systems. It says banks should aim to "make the necessary amendments to the infrastructure by January 1, 1999".

Barclays said it need not be ready for the earliest start date, January 1, 1999, because Britain is unlikely to join then. Mr Buxton told the *Today* programme on BBC Radio 4: "I think that Britain should not join in the first round."

Other high street banks are preparing for full euro services irrespective of Britain's position. Margaret Soden, senior manager of monetary union planning at Midland, said: "We will be offering euro accounts from January 1999. We are preparing for both scenarios. You would expect a major UK bank to do so."

NatWest is also preparing for a full conversion to the euro in 1999. A spokesman said: "We are planning regardless of whether we think

the UK will go into monetary union. It would appear improbable that the UK would join in 1999 but being a sizeable financial institution we nevertheless prepare for it."

The cost of converting

counter services is holding Barclays back. A spokeswoman said: "We have held back from investing in changing the system as there hasn't been a clear decision whether the UK will be in from the start."

Barclays has invested £40 million to prepare its wholesale banking operations. The cost of changing the retail side is estimated to be about £200 million. The spokeswoman said Mr Buxton was in full agreement with the rest of the board on the issue.

The Bank of England's report, *Practical Issues Arising from the Introduction of the Euro*, sets

ICI warns of job cuts to combat sterling problem

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A FRESH round of job cuts is expected at ICI, which is accelerating its productivity drive as the strong pound eats into already weak profits.

The chemicals manufacturer expects £120 million to be cut from this year's profits if sterling remains at its present level — up from the £90 million hit feared two months ago when ICI, whose chairman is Sir Ronald Hampel, announced results. In the first quarter of 1997 sterling cut £40 million from profits.

Alan Spall, finance director, said the productivity drive must be increased immediately to combat the impact of sterling. "That drive will inevitably fall on fixed costs such as manning," he said.

ICI is already implementing a rationalisation programme to reduce costs by £400 million a year and boost return on assets from 18 to 20 per cent. But the decision to scale up efficiencies was taken recently as the sterling problem proved tougher than first thought. Mr Spall would not put a figure on the extra job reductions but it is unlikely to be fewer than several hundred in the UK.

The sterling effect has led to casualties among large industrial companies that are heavy exporters or are geared to the market for pricing. Recently British Steel increased its efficiency programme and said that up to 10,000 more jobs must be cut. Other companies have given warnings that the strong pound will reduce profits.

ICI has also been hit by strong pricing pressures in industrial chemicals, an area where it wants to reduce exposure in favour of more consumer-led chemical markets. Trading profit the first three months plummeted £13 million into the red, compared with a £87 million profit in the same period last year.

Overall, trading profit before exceptional items to the end of March plunged £87 million — a drop of 58 per cent from the previous year.

Tempus, page 30



Sir Ronald Hampel, left, chairman of ICI, with Charles Miller Smith, chief executive, when the company announced its results in February

Chambers of Commerce plea for 1p increase in income tax

By Alasdair Murray and Philip Bassett

THE British Chambers of Commerce yesterday called for a 1p rise in income tax to help to cool the economy without harming the fragile manufacturing sector.

Ian Peters, BCC deputy director-general, joined a growing chorus of business leaders and economists who believe the widely expected post-election interest rate rises will further damage manufacturing investment and export competitiveness.

The London Business

School (LBS), which publishes its spring *Economic Outlook* today, is also calling for the next government to consider tax rises in addition to raising base rates to help to head off the threat of inflation.

Andrew Sentance, director of the Centre for Economic Forecasting at the school and a former member of the Treasury panel of independent forecasters, argues that fiscal tightening would take some of the strain off interest rates and prevent the pound rising fur-

ther. "Selective" tax rises would also help to place government borrowing on a sustainable basis and provide room for targeted tax cuts later in the Parliament.

The LBS forecasts that rates will rise to 7 per cent by early next year — with a 0.5 per cent rise needed immediately after the election — to counter the inflationary threat posed by rising wages.

It believes that GDP growth will hit 3.1 per cent this year, but that the rise in sterling will

cause the economy to slow rapidly next year to register just 1.9 per cent GDP growth.

The BCC call for a tax rise came as it announced the results of its latest quarterly industrial survey of more than 8,000 companies.

This showed that manufacturing and service firms were seeing a continuing decline in sales growth, with exports hit by the strength of sterling and confidence falling.

But the BCC said that high levels of recruitment difficul-

ties, coupled with rising wage settlements, could fuel wage inflation.

Trade figures published yesterday showed the global trade deficit widening to £758 million in February, compared with £535 million in the previous month. The non-EU trade deficit in March rose to £605 million in March, from £437 million in February.

Global export volumes fell 1.6 per cent in February, while non-EU exports dropped 4.1 per cent in March.

P&O places order for £200m superliner

P&O CRUISES has placed a £200 million order for a new superliner with a German shipyard, it was announced yesterday (Martin Barrow writes).

The ship is to be built at the Meyer Werft shipyard and will be delivered for service in the spring of 2000. The vessel, which has not yet been named, will carry more than 1,800 passengers on worldwide cruises

from the UK and will be a sister ship to *Oriana*, which was also built in Germany and was introduced as the P&O flagship in April 1995.

The order comes after announcement in March that Princess Cruises, a P&O subsidiary, is to introduce a £300 million superliner. *The Ocean Princess*, is to be built at the Fincantieri Shipyard in Italy.

Alliance & Leicester defends its auctions

By OUR CITY STAFF

ALLIANCE & Leicester, the former building society that floated on the stock market on Monday creating windfalls for 2.5 million members, yesterday defended its free share dealing service.

Peter White, chief executive, said: "The aim of the auctions was to ensure that the price received by these individuals reflected the trend in the share price over the early phase of trading, and this has been successful."

More than 157 million shares were sold through the service, which used three auctions to fix a price. On Wednesday it said the price for the 620,000 people who decided to cash in early was £33.7p a share, making the standard 250-share handout worth £1,334.25.

After the first day of trading, A&L shares closed at 566.5p, the equivalent of £1,416 — or slightly below £1,400 if a standard dealing fee of £20 is subtracted.

The company said members selling immediately had received a price in line with the value at the end of the first two days on the stock market. By Tuesday evening, the price had fallen to 533p.

Hollinger suffers from subscription campaign

By ERIC REGULY

A COSTLY subscription campaign all but wiped out the 1996 profits of Conrad Black's British newspaper company, dominated by the *The Daily Telegraph* and its Sunday sister.

The annual report of Hollinger International, the Telegraph group's owner, revealed that the newspaper's operating income declined from \$27 million in 1995 to \$1.6 million in the year to the end of December. In 1994, when the price war with *The Times* began, the operating income was \$33.9 million.

The downturn came in spite of an 11.6 rise in operating revenue, to \$45.9 million, as the British group reported double-digit increase in both classified and advertising revenue.

Hollinger blamed the profits collapse on the \$32.3 million cost of direct subscription campaign that gave large discounts to new *Telegraph* readers.

The discounts drove down operating margins from 9.23 to 2.52 per cent.

Hollinger said the subscription campaign helped to lift circulation at *The Daily and The Sunday Telegraph*.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

French expansion by CU lifts shares

COMMERCIAL UNION shares, already buoyed by strong new business figures this week, rose further yesterday after news that the composite was expanding further into the French insurance market. CU said the deal would increase CU's new single premium business in France, which was £357 million for the first three months of this year, by 30 per cent. The deal is in keeping with CU's strategy of expanding on the Continent and French new single premiums will now be three times those of the UK.

CU said it had acquired 73 per cent of SEV, a French life assurer, and 100 per cent of a French broking business in an agreement with APER, the largest association of savers in France and an organisation with which CU shares new business. The share rose 3p to 656p after a 13p rise the previous day.

Stakis rates drop

DISRUPTIONS caused by room refurbishment pushed occupancy rates at Stakis, the Scottish hotel and casinos chain, down 1.4 points to 64.7 per cent in the first three months of the year. The company said that its Metropole chain, which it bought last November, was trading well with occupancy already up by 5.3 per cent and room rates up by 11.2 per cent. Like-for-like casino attendances jumped 18 per cent to 594,000, but spend per head declined by £5 to £112. The company's shares held at 100p yesterday, although 2.92 million changed hands. The company also named Robert Smith, chief executive of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, as its fourth non-executive director, with immediate effect.

Pension provision falls

MORE than four out of ten working adults have no current pension provision — up slightly on previous research, according to a survey by NOP, the research group, based on interviews with 14,500 people. It found the proportion of people in either full-time or part-time work without any form of pension provision — other than the basic state pension — had increased by 1 percentage point to 42 per cent in the six months to December 1996, compared with a year earlier. The findings suggest attempts to encourage companies to increase their pension provision for their staff and for individuals to take out personal pension plans had met with "only limited success", the survey concludes.

Blue Circle package

KEITH ORRELL-JONES, chief executive of Blue Circle Industries, saw his total salary package rise from £383,846 to £390,972 during 1996, while he also cashed in executive share options worth £890,145, according to the latest accounts from the company. The accounts also reveal that he was awarded £123,900 "phantom options" last year, which entitles him to a cash bonus provided certain performance targets are met. His total remuneration package also included a £92,036 performance-related bonus. The options covered a four-year period.

Interactive Leeds FC

CASPIAN Group said it will launch a Leeds United interactive TV service with Hull-based Video Networks at the beginning of next year. The service will create a virtual catalogue with 330 items currently available through Leeds United's retail outlets, it said. The service will also include a Leeds United video magazine with archive footage, and a bulletin board with club information. The interactive service will enable Caspian to participate in the development of broadband TV services, the group said. City Diary, page 31

Society looks at options

BIRMINGHAM MIDSHIRES, one of the building societies yet to announce plans to float on the stock market and convert to a bank, yesterday refused to rule out such a move. John Leighfield, the chairman, reaffirmed the desire of the society, the UK's eighth largest, to grow by "acquisition or merger". Speculation was inevitable in the current climate, he told the society's annual meeting. "The board continues to research all the options to ensure it is fulfilling its duty to act in the best long term interests of the society. No better destiny has been found."

Bodycote chief sells

JOSEPH DWEK, the founding chairman of Bodycote, the Manchester-based metal technology company that makes bullet-proof vests, yesterday sold 455,997 of his shares in the group at 745p each. The sale raised £34 million for him. The shares closed at 750p yesterday. Mr Dwek holds 3.4 million shares, representing a 4.22 per cent stake in the company. At yesterday's closing price, the holding was worth about £25.5 million. Mr Dwek made a similar sale in May last year.

Trinity Holdings ahead

TRINITY HOLDINGS, the fire engines to refuse lorries company, lifted pre-tax profits 9 per cent to £17.4 million in the year to January 31. The company sold 1,000 of its special buses, which lower themselves six inches provide a no-step access for passengers. It also secured orders for 240 of its double-deck version of the bus. Its airport vehicles division was boosted by orders for its "no-pole" tractors. Earnings nudged up to 20.6p (20.5p) a share. The final dividend is 6.1p, bringing the total to 8.9p (8.2p), due July 31.

Poor response to review

THE Securities and Investments Board claims that only two in five people contacted in the personal pensions review process have responded. At present, life insurers and independent financial advisers are contacting hundreds of thousands of clients who may have been mis-sold a personal pension. So far, the industry has offered redress of £80 million to 10,800 people, making the average amount of compensation £7,500 a person. The industry has been strongly criticised by regulators such as the SIB for taking so long to resolve the situation.

MCI's soaring costs keep profits flat in first quarter

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

MCI, the long-distance US telephone company that is merging with British Telecom, reported soaring costs had kept profits flat in the first three months of 1997.

The phone company earned \$295 million, unchanged from the same period last year, despite a healthy rise in revenues. Gerald Taylor, chief executive, said that profits from its core long-distance business grew to \$403 million, or 57 cents a share, but investments in new ventures slashed the profit growth by 15 cents a share.

its increasing investment in higher-margin businesses.

MCI's \$2.5 billion merger with BT to form Concert is due to be completed this autumn. Analysts gave warning that merger costs and management time devoted to the deal were likely to limit profit growth in the next year or two.

However, MCI said that despite the extra expense investment in new areas was paying off. Information technology grew by 27 per cent to \$433 million, and revenue from its Internet services grew 200 per cent.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia \$	2.19	2.03
Austria Sch	22.00	22.04
Belgium Fr	61.46	55.95
Canada \$	2.576	2.208
Cyprie Cyp	0.671	0.608
Denmark Kr	11.05	10.95
Finland Mkr	8.89	8.21
France Fr	8.82	9.12
Germany Dm	2.28	2.72
Iceland Kr	461	431
Hong Kong \$	12.51	12.21
Ireland Pt	1.27	1.07
Ireland Irl	5.80	5.18
Italy Lira	216.50	202.50
Japan Yen	0.657	0.602
Malta Lm	3.316	3.046
New Zealand \$	2.58	2.55
Norway Kr	11.99	11.19
Portug Ecu	291.00	271.00
S Africa Rd	7.91	7.01
S. Korea Wons	240.00	220.00
Sweden Kr	12.19	12.19
Switzerland Fr	2.2537	2.0557
Turkey Lira	1.722	1.592

Rates for small denomination bank notes are not available from British Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

For your company golf day... it's the business

The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge is open to any company, organisation, partnership, association or body (not golf society) based in the British Isles, which holds a business or company golf day in which 12 or more amateur players take part.

How to participate

1. Hold a golf day involving at least 12 players and play under the established booking system.
2. Complete and send the form, together with the registration fee of £250 plus VAT as soon as possible, prior to your golf day and no later than 21st September 1997.
3. After your golf day, simply submit the results of your day including the names of the 12 golfers who took part, the names of the 12 golfers who did not take part, the names of the 12 golfers who did not play in the competition and the names of the 12 golfers who did not play in the competition.
4. Golf days registered after 21st September or played after 21st September will not be entered for the 1998 Challenge.

Benefits of Entry

- Your golf day featured in *The Times MeesPierson golf days' feature*.
- Your golf day results featured in *The Times' golf day results' feature*.
- An entry to our personalised event trophies for your golf day winners.
- 25 Copies of *The Times* delivered to the golf club on the day of the golf day.
- A golf day personalised outcome package for use on your golf day.
- Complimentary copy of the Official event magazine - *The Business Golfer*.
- Three standard free subscriptions to *Golf World magazine* (a £12.95 value).
- The chance to be a member of the top 25 entries in your respective region, they will qualify as a guest to play in one of the National Regional Finals in October 1997.
- The winning company from each of the regional finals will compete in the National Final at Hyatt Le Marq Club, Paris, France in November 1997, to be invited for a Sky TV broadcast.
- The winners of the National Final will be invited to participate in the World Corporate Golf Challenge.

Rules and Conditions

A full set of rules and conditions will be sent with acknowledgement of receipt of your entry. Please copy by calling the Challenge Office (0171

□ Everything to prove at Laura Ashley □ External approach is better for bids □ Banks must tackle millennium bug first

□ ONE can only speculate as to the manner in which the irascible Sir Bernard Ashley received the latest trading figures from the company that bears his late wife's name but those of a sensitive disposition would have been well advised to keep clear.

Sir Bernard, whose family still holds almost a third of Laura Ashley, would have been justified in suggesting to chief executive Ann Iverson that she cut the jargon and explain why the company she was so confident she could put to rights is still struggling.

For the chief executive to offer the platitude that "we continue to remain a results-driven group", is hardly destined to win a round of applause from shareholders who have just seen the value of their investment fall by a third.

After nearly two years in the role, Ms Iverson is still experimenting without producing results that suggest she has found a formula worthy of reproducing.

She is undoubtedly highly motivated — the potential to pocket up to £5 million in another couple of years should provide some inspiration. But on current performance, the glossy American will not have to worry about any new windfall that may be looming.

There are two views on Laura Ashley. The first, encouraged by

the enthusiasts of Sir Bernard, believe that it has all the makings of an international brand that could rank among the best. The second sees it as a niche player, which cannot grow too far out of its heritage, however much Ms Iverson tries to cast off the floral prints. On current view, the second may have got it right.

Ms Iverson, often described as feisty, has taken the brave step of investing heavily in moving Ashley into big new stores in the US, with little indication that these will be any more successful than the smaller ones that have been failing to perform.

In the UK, she tells us that the company has cleverly kept up sales levels by "taking greater mark-downs in order to ensure better sell-through of in-season merchandise". This is what other retailers refer to as having a sale.

It will take more than jargon to improve results from the group. Whether she blames late store openings or over-optimistic ordering, the chief executive has had to admit that the next set of figures will be disappointing because customers are not buying

all that Laura Ashley wants to sell.

Her task is made harder by the heritage factor: the Welsh factories that were part of the original Ashley dream and which Sir Bernard is loathe to close. Whatever the theoretical benefits of an integrated business, Laura Ashley has never

been well advised to keep clear.

Mr Regan has brought in an almost entirely new team to help her turn around the company, most of them female. They may loyally shop in the company stores but their custom will not be enough to bring her the

Regan's folly comes back to haunt him

□ SO IT has all ended about as badly as it possibly could for that clever Andrew Regan. His backers are distancing themselves, the Co-op is bringing criminal proceedings against or suing anyone involved, and shares in Lanica are about to be relisted. Once they are

back to the three-pence they are probably worth after this débâcle,



Mr Regan will not be bidding for anything much larger than a box of paperclips.

Good thing, too. His activities have done a disservice to the City, and to anyone who thinks it right for underperforming management to be swept aside in favour of performing ones, to the benefit of those who actually own the assets. This is the justification for the contested takeover bid, and if Labour makes these more difficult if in power, some of the blame must rest with Mr Regan and his pals.

This has been one of those occasional bids — Porte and Granada was the last — that has made it on to the front pages from the financial sections. The City should always be on its best

behaviour on such occasions, and few new readers will have cared for what they read this time. Bungs to Cayman Islands companies, the looting of private documents through the back door, the CWS's resorting to private detectives to photograph Mrs Regan's bikini seems a justified response.

Mr Regan's City backers may not have been out of the top drawer — hard to imagine a Cazenove or a Lazard's becoming involved — but their reputations, and especially that of Schroders, have been tarnished. Nonetheless, it is not all bad news. It is change at the Co-operative movement that will be the most lasting legacy of this affair.

There are already pressure groups springing up among members demanding that further approaches be taken seriously. If a respected retailer, a Sir Geoff Mulcahy, says comes along, or an organisation with the right altruistic credentials — wild thought, John Lewis — they will have to be heard. Or Granham Melmoth and other Co-op heavyweights will have to improve performance from inside.

Given the internal tangles at the CWS, the CRS and the rest of the movement, an external approach may prove to be the easier.

Barclays backs ostrich over EMU

□ BARCLAYS is right to risk political incorrectness and tell Britain's politicians to stop being so self-indulgent over the single currency. Across Europe, banks and businesses (including the continental parts of British groups) are preparing actively for retail use of the euro in the confidence that their own governments are pressing ahead. It may not happen but any business decision carries such risks.

If British companies are to press ahead, they have to do so on two alternative strategies. Some adjustments need to be made whether the UK joins or not. The cost of conversion is heavy enough to dent bank profits noticeably.

Some changes affect customers. Shoppers would have to put up with a shortage of cash machines, for instance, while

most were converted to euros. Banks that lost millions gearing up for the Stock Exchange's aborted Taurus system do not want to throw scores of millions down the drain on a euro the UK is not likely to join.

The millennium problem for computers coincides with the first wave of EMU. The former will cost even a relatively simple bank such as Abbey National at least £50 million. Both main parties have authorised statements saying that UK entry in the first wave is "extremely unlikely". So it is sensible, rather than ostrich-like, to put the domestic euro on the back burner and cope with the millennium issue first.

Snakes and ladders

□ INTRODUCING what has to be the worst AIM stock ever. Skateboard International — note the International, providing some spurious credibility along with David Lloyd as a non-executive — makes a skateboard you steer by wiggling your feet. Who could resist such an invention? The company has now managed two profit warnings before its first set of figures as a quoted company. Surprise, it was brought to us by our old friends Neill Clark Capital. It would be more interesting to know who actually puts up real money for these dogs.

Equitas court victory for Lloyd's

BY ADAM JONES

LLOYD'S OF LONDON has won a High Court battle over a controversial "pay now, sue later" clause in investors' contracts. The society had taken legal action to collect money from three names who allege they are victims of fraud.

Mr Justice Colman ruled yesterday that Dennis Leighs, Geoffrey Lyon and David Wilkinson have to pay a share of the costs of establishing Equitas, the reinsurer that took on the market's crippling liabilities.

They had claimed that they were recruited fraudulently, invalidating a "pay now, sue later" clause in their contracts.

Lloyd's said it will now be able to start collecting about £350 million from dissidents, even though an appeal should be heard in the next few months. Ron Sandler, Lloyd's chief executive officer, said: "Lloyd's is delighted that today's ruling, taken together with Mr Justice Colman's earlier ruling in the action,

upholds the legal basis for the reinsurance into Equitas."

In the same dispute, Mr Justice Colman ruled in February that the Equitas structure is legitimate, dismissing one justification for non-payment.

The American Names Association, which wants to sue Lloyd's in US courts, welcomed the decision. It said it proved that "no remedies for fraud exist for US Lloyd's investors in the UK courts".

The United Names Organisation, a pressure group of investors, said the ruling means many names will not be able to afford legal action over fraud allegations.

Catherine Mackenzie Smith, chairman, said: "For the English names with no proper investor protection law to help them, this judgment represents a setback."

Christopher Stockwell, chairman of the Lloyd's Names Associations' Working Party, said: "Lloyd's continues to behave with arrogant disregard for those it has ruined."

Last year, Mr Justice Colman will consider the position of non-paying names who say they are being pursued for sums larger than those agreed when they accepted the reconstruction and renewal package.

Earlier this week, the 1,000-strong Rose Thomson Young Names Action Group, which includes Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, and Sir Richard Body, MP, served Lloyd's with a writ demanding £1.6 million in unrefunded expenses.

Watchdog fines Invesco £60,000

BY ADAM JONES

INVESCO Asset Management has been fined £60,000 by the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation, the financial services watchdog, for lax accounting controls. The company was also ordered to pay costs of £25,500.

The rule breaches date back to 1994 and 1995. The fund manager failed to reconcile promptly company records with bank records. One personal equity plan (Pep) client account was not reconciled with bank records for 15 months. Invesco rules say reconciliations should be done every five weeks.

It also failed to correct promptly reconciliation differences and to maintain written compliance procedures. Overall, more than ten accounts were affected.

Invesco warned in 1995. A spokeswoman for the regulator said: "No investors have lost any money."



Colin Evans, chairman, said the women's wear range, rather than the men's wear normally associated with Austin Reed, was leading group growth

Brent Walker leaps back into profit

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

BRENT WALKER, the leisure company formerly run by George Walker, has set a deadline of the end of the year to decide on the future of William Hill, its remaining asset.

The company's lending agreement with its banks runs out on December 31 and Brent Walker is expected to unveil a sale or flotation of the betting chain before this date.

Brent Walker, which almost collapsed in 1991, is still burdened with £1.3 billion of debt and a deficit in shareholders' funds of £1 billion. A float or a sale of William Hill is expected to realise up to £700 million.

Bass, owner of the Coral chain, is tipped as a likely bidder.

Brent Walker succeeded in returning to the black last year, with a full-year profit before tax of £50.6 million against a

Bloomsbury book sales 20% higher

BY MARTIN BARROW

BLOOMSBURY Publishing, the book publisher whose authors include the controversial Will Self, achieved an 18.8 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £1.2 million in 1996.

The company said it had high hopes for sales of Mr Self's new novel, *Great Apes*, published this week.

Yesterday Bloomsbury said pre-tax profits in the year to December 31 rose 18 per cent to £1.202 million from £1.012 million, on sales of £13.655 million, up 20 per cent from £11.37 million. Earnings rose 21.4 per cent to 9.47p a share from 7.8p and the company is paying a total dividend of 3.5p (3.4p), with a 2.8p final.

Glaxo agrees truce with Zantac rival

BY ERIC REGULY

GLAXO WELLCOME, the world's largest pharmaceuticals company, negotiated a truce yesterday with Novopharm that will allow the Canadian drugs company to sell a generic version of Zantac before it loses its American patent protection.

Zantac, the anti-ulcer drug that is Glaxo's best-selling product, loses its patent protection on July 25. Glaxo is to allow Novopharm to sell generic Zantac, known as ranitidine hydrochloride, for a 16-day period ending July 25 in exchange for a one-off payment. Neither company would reveal the size of the payment, which is thought to be about £75 million.

In exchange, Glaxo has agreed not to take legal action against Novopharm for

breaching the deadline. Glaxo said the deal is profitable, implying the payment would more than offset the loss of Zantac sales in the period, but would not provide details.

Leslie Dan, chairman of Novopharm, said the 16 days will allow it to flood the US market with generic Zantac.

"If we are the first in the market we have a huge advantage..." Generic Zantac will sell for about half the price of the patented version.

Zantac, once the world's best-selling drug, had sales of £1 billion in the US last year, down 14 per cent from 1995. The company has predicted that generic competition will slash Zantac's US sales by as much as 80 per cent.

Tempus, page 30

Have your children ever heard the call of the mountain?

To receive a free brochure on family holidays in Austria, contact the Austrian National Tourist Office, P. O. Box 2363, London W1A 2QB, Tel.: (0171) 829 0461, Fax: (0171) 499 6038, e-mail: ceylon@easy.net.co.uk, Internet: <http://austria-info.at/>

Austria Holiday Break Away.

Austria

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Lanica shares face large fall over CWS bid failure

SHARES in high-flying Lanica Trust will more than halve when trading in the shares resumes after the collapse of Andrew Regan's leveraged bid for the Cooperative Wholesale Society.

Suspended more than two months ago at 195p, the shares are expected to be re-quoted within the next few days. The opening price is likely to be between 40p and 50p, but dealers believe the price could fall even further now that the £1.5 billion Co-op bid has been scrapped.

The Stock Exchange said it was impossible to say when Lanica would be re-quoted, but it is known that talks between officials and the company were taking place last night. The Stock Exchange is said to be seeking certain assurances before giving its approval.

Lanica is a thin market covered by only two market-makers, HSBC James Capel and Winterflood Securities. They will only quote a price in 50p shares at a time.

Most of the large shareholdings in Lanica are listed under nominee accounts, but sources close to the company reckon that Jupiter Tyndall had built up an undisclosed stake of less than 3 per cent of the company.

The FT-SE 100 index, having risen above the day's 4,400 mark, ended the day almost all-square, up 0.8 at 4,388. Investors were cautious ahead of today's gross domestic product figures.

Turnover of 809.7 million shares was bolstered by the continuing share buyback in LucasVarity, 1.1p easier at 191p, as nine million shares changed hands.

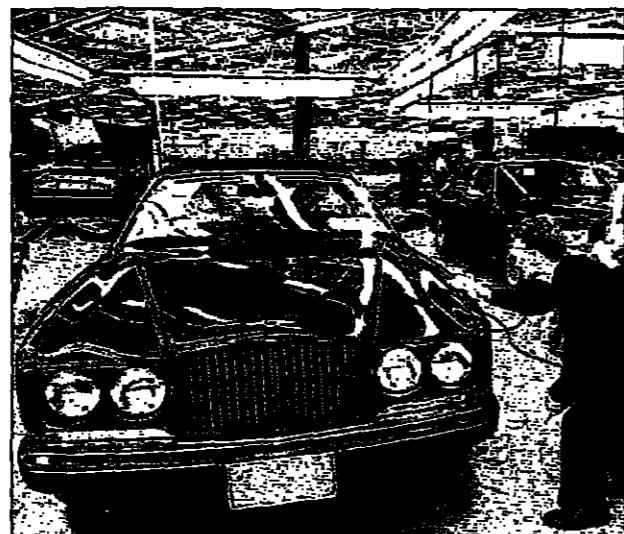
The profits slump at ICI left the price 20p lower at 700.5p. Brokers say margins remain under pressure.

The profits warning from Laura Ashley sent the shares down 41p to close at 104p, after touching 98p.

Nick Bubb, retail analyst at MeesPierson, says: "There were a lot of positive comments about the new range. Now the company says it has bought too much of it. It's a typical Laura Ashley foul-up."

But full marks to the investor who unloaded 3.29 million shares on Wednesday, at 145p, a 6p discount to the ruling market price.

The 9p special dividend from Andrew Cohen's Betterware was warmly received by the City and the



Rolls-Royce margins fell and Vickers shares dipped 231p

price responded with a jump of 10p to 122p. The door-to-door catalogue shopping group has surplus cash of almost £13 million.

Europcar still remains deep in the red and the financial restructuring seems no nearer completion, but there was some relief for hapless shareholders as the price firmed 11p to 71p. Total

City speculators continue to chase BTG high, with the price closing a further 31p up to 655p. Many of them are pinning their hopes on Torotrak, which does away with the need for a gearbox in cars. Whispers suggest BTG may be forming a separate company to develop and market Torotrak separately.

Turnover of 608.3 million shares was bolstered by the continuing share buyback in LucasVarity, 1.1p easier at 191p, as nine million shares changed hands.

The profits slump at ICI left the price 20p lower at 700.5p. Brokers say margins remain under pressure.

The profits warning from Laura Ashley sent the shares down 41p to close at 104p, after touching 98p.

Nick Bubb, retail analyst at MeesPierson, says: "There were a lot of positive comments about the new range. Now the company says it has bought too much of it. It's a typical Laura Ashley foul-up."

But full marks to the investor who unloaded 3.29 million shares on Wednesday, at 145p, a 6p discount to the ruling market price.

The 9p special dividend from Andrew Cohen's Betterware was warmly received by the City and the

wood in London at 143p. The price opened at 150p and ended the session at 1591p, a premium of 161p.

Diagonal, a recent newcomer, firmed 21p to 319p with the help of a buy recommendation from Kleinwort Benson, the broker, it came to market in March via Henderson Crosthwaite at 25p.

News of a bid approach lifted Omnicare 28p to 157p. The price has come up from a low of 102p this year and is now capitalised at £18.5 million.

A profits warning from Vickers left the shares 231p lower at 2021p and had a knock-on effect for the rest of the engineering sector. There were losses for BBA, down 7p at 334p, FKI, 5p to 180p, Laird Group, 10p to 395p and TI Group, 24p to 523p. Siebe was also down 20p to 934p on talk it may be about to make a sizeable acquisition.

Danny Bevan at Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, said:

"Vickers was concerned that the City may have got the wrong end of the stick."

The company exports 34 per cent of turnover from this country and is affected by a strong pound. But it has also been hurt by heavy discounting of four-door models of Rolls-Royce and Bentley luxury cars prior to the launch of a new range of models. This had hurt margins and is likely to leave profits for the year static at between £80 million and £83 million.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Having marked time for much of the day, gilt prices fell sharply in late trading, reflecting similar losses among overseas bonds. Growing concern about the criteria and implementation of a single European currency were blamed.

The June series of the long gilt shed 111p to close at 10191p as turnover reached its highest level of the week with 50,000 contracts completed.

Brokers reported demand for index-linked issues, which kept prices stable, while a further steepening of the yield curve was recorded as Treasury 8 per cent fell 111p to 10211p. Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was 11p off at 10211p.

□ **NEW YORK:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

□ **FT-SE 100:** Shares were lower after an early IBM rally evaporated and sell-offs in Alfed Signal and Procter & Gamble. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 10.04 points lower at 6,822.76.

Ethical business practice in the spotlight

A £1.2 BILLION takeover bid has just collapsed, brought down by allegations of sharp practice and potential criminality. A day earlier, protesters outside General Accident's annual meeting in Perth, demanding that the insurer sell its shares in Shell, the oil group, because of its attitude towards the environment. Business ethics are coming under scrutiny as never before.

So it was appropriate that yesterday should have seen the final round in this year's Business Ethics competition, sponsored by NatWest Group and *The Times*.

Few senior businessmen would relish the situation that our six undergraduate finalists were asked to envisage: being under siege by rampant pressure groups and a highly critical media.

It was to encourage consideration and debate on business ethics that NatWest and *The Times* launched this competition three years ago. Yesterday Owain Evans, 18, an economics student from Emmanuel College, Cambridge, became the latest winner, with a cheque for £3,000, and a similar amount to his university.

The judges — Derek Wanless, NatWest chief executive, John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC, John Drummond, managing director of Integrity Works, a specialist business ethics consultancy, Julia Neuberger, chairman of Camden & Islington NHS Trust, and Patience Wheatcroft, business editor of *The Times* — felt that Owain's grasp of ethical issues and the way they should be handled gave him the edge over his rivals.

Nicola Grant from Kingston University came second and Fiona Flintan from Wye College, University of London, came third. Each had been asked to put themselves behind the desk of the chairman of Go-Build, a construction firm engaged on building a road that was, inevitably, not to everyone's liking. Protesters in the Swampy mould were on the attack and Go-Build had to contend with the dilemma of reconciling the interests of investors, employees, clients and demonstrators.

Most of our finalists demonstrated a trusting belief in the fact that the demonstrators would be amenable to rational discussion and that good communication could do much to cope with the problem. Businessmen might have taken them to issue on that point. But what business should note is that our bright youngsters almost all shared certain strong views on what constitutes ethical behaviour. In particular, they emphasised the need for business to care for the environment and advocated policies which could hit the profits that might otherwise go to shareholders. Their cry was for companies to look to the long term, with the optimistic refrain that ethical behaviour would bring its rewards eventually.

We must hope that their idealism will not be compromised in coming years. PATIENCE WHEATCROFT

Caspian's Leeds Lasers

A 12-year-old boy living in north Leeds bumped up his pocket money by £1,000 yesterday. Daniel Kennedy came top in a competition run by the *Yorkshire Evening Post* to christen the new hockey team being launched by Caspian, the leisure and hotels group that owns Leeds United. The hockey team, which makes its debut on the ice this autumn, will henceforth be known as the Leeds Lasers.

Opera post

ACCOUNTANTS with an ear for what could do worse than give Norman Broadbent International a call. The firm of headhunters is looking to fill the role of director of finance and resources at Glyndebourne. Mark Beddy, 36, the incumbent, is off to join the British Study Group. Eighty per cent of the job will centre on Glyndebourne Festival Opera and tours. A five-figure salary has been

Fair blows the wind from France for Eurosceptics

Chirac's dash to the polls increases the chances of EMU's launch being delayed

A last, an excuse to forget this futile and empty election campaign. Something much more important and unpredictable is happening across the Channel. President Chirac's sudden decision to dissolve the French Parliament is one of those rare political events which hit the world completely by surprise and necessitate a total reassessment of crucial assumptions about the economic outlook. In fact, Chirac's bolt from the blue could be compared with the Danish and French referendums of 1992, which set off the chain of events that culminated in White Wednesday, or the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, which had no permanent effect on the oil price, but tipped the American and world economies into recession and led to the downfall of George Bush.

The assumption that France and Germany would inevitably join together in a monetary union was one that realistic Eurosceptics like myself have long accepted — despite our conviction that such a union would be a dangerous folly. On Monday evening, however, this assumption of inevitability was undermined. Overnight the probability that EMU would proceed on schedule fell from something like 95 per cent to nearer the 60 per cent or so that senior Bundesbank officials have always claimed to believe in. There is even a chance that the whole single currency project could now be postponed sine die and that Europe will move towards a different programme for economic integration and enlargement in the years ahead.

The very subdued reaction in the political world and the financial markets can be explained in two ways. First is the rabbit in the headlights effect. So many people have bet so firmly on the inevitability of EMU, that paralysis and denial are the natural first reactions to an event that could blow the whole process apart.

Secondly, there is the fallacy of the rational politician. Chirac, it is said, didn't have to call this election; therefore he wouldn't have called it unless he was sure he would win. Furthermore, Chirac is committed to EMU; ergo he would do anything that would put EMU at risk.

These arguments, which I keep hearing from political and financial analysts, are absurd. Politicians are always making mistakes. If they keep blundering in their economic policies, their diplomacy and everything else they do, why should we assume that they are omniscient when it comes to foreseeing how people will vote? The fact is that President Chirac did not call the election because he knew he would win it. More likely, he feared he would lose if he waited until next March. As for Chirac's



Attempts to meet the Maastricht criteria for economic and monetary union have already prompted protests in France



Lionel Jospin has criticised EMU austerity measures



Alain Juppé could find himself relying on Eurosceptics

economic growth, "social cohesion" and the fight against unemployment.

A French Socialist victory on such a manifesto, far from antagonising Germany, could embolden opponents of EMU on the German left and weaken the uncertain electoral prospects for Helmut Kohl. Adverse market reaction to any signs of a Socialist victory which might emerge during the campaign could turn all this into a reflexive process — a financial crisis would raise the cost of convergence to politically unsupportable levels and that in turn would feed more market speculation and add to political uncertainty. This is exactly what happened in Italy, Spain, Scandinavia and Britain in the autumn of 1992, during the last few weeks of the French referendum campaign.

It is, of course, possible that even if the Socialists were elected, they would perform an immediate U-turn and implement the EMU-inspired austerity policies they denounced during the campaign. This is the general assumption in the financial markets.

To me it seems a rash assumption — not because politicians are normally true to their campaign promises, but because a decent interval usually has to elapse before a newly elected government can make a U-turn. In this case, however, the EMU timetable would require a U-turn virtually the day after the election.

Now consider the political outcome that is marginally

more probable according to opinion polls — a victory for the Right. If the Right wins by a narrow margin, a core EMU will remain likely, no longer certain. The election campaign itself would widen fissures between Alain Juppé and the anti-EMU factions on the Right. If the result were a very narrow victory, Juppé's position would be in jeopardy and other leaders, less enthusiastic about the EMU project, would immediately start manoeuvring to take his place. Worse, Juppé would have to rely on the Eurosceptics for votes and would have to heed their views if he is to win. It is worth recalling the sudden power influence of the Eurosceptics in Britain after the Tories' narrow victory in 1992. The French Government would have even less backbone than it did in 1995 when faced with strikes and popular pressure. There could be serious and persistent uncertainty about EMU right up until April 1998.

Only if the Right wins decisively, will EMU be certain to go ahead. But since the markets have already priced in a 100 per cent probability of the German and French currencies merging, there is little for investors to gain by betting on this outcome.

This leads to the biggest danger for the EMU process — the impact of the six-week campaign itself on financial markets. Until the votes are counted, neither the markets nor the politicians will know whether this is the option the French electorate chooses. The one thing that seems certain is that there will be numerous

political scares and setbacks for the EMU cause between now and June 1. The market's complacent idea that the Right will enjoy a commanding lead from the start of the campaign to the finish simply does not seem plausible — not after the close vote in the 1995 presidential election, when Lionel Jospin came within an arm's length of an upset victory over Chirac, and the even narrower margin in the 1992 Maastricht referendum — which President Mitterrand was convinced he would win by a landslide.

And as in 1992, any market turmoil during the campaign will itself affect the outcome. In 1992, when Mitterrand's referendum was the proximate cause of White Wednesday, the main impact of the uncertainty about French politics was felt not in France but in Britain, Scandinavia and Italy. This time again the initial market turmoil may hit peripheral countries such as Italy and Spain. But the European economies and the Franco-German political consensus on EMU are much weaker today than they were in 1992. This time an EMU-related financial crisis in the Mediterranean could destroy the fragile political support for the whole single currency project in France.

Returning for a moment to parochial British politics, it would be a supremely ironic epilogue to our election: the single-currency monster that destroyed both Margaret Thatcher and John Major, miraculously slain by French voters within a month of the Tories losing power.

Dead or alive: what's best for Eurotunnel's shareholders?

Small investors have a bigger say than the banks, according to Jason Nisse

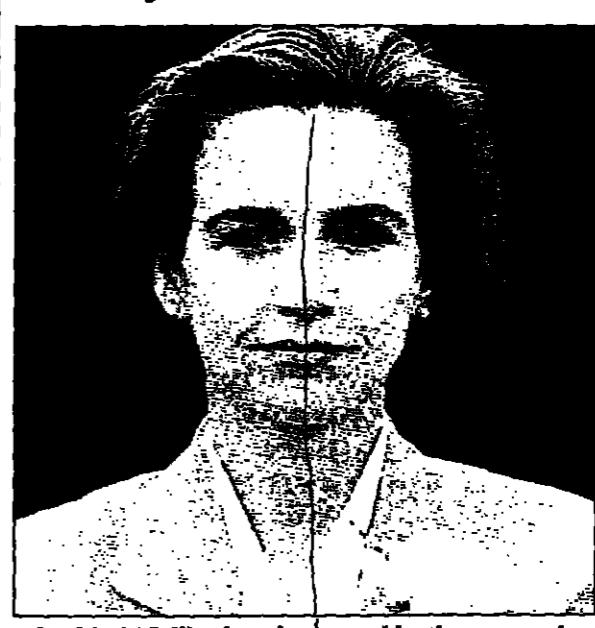
The French trawermen blockading the Channel ports gave Eurotunnel a fantastic publicity coup yesterday morning as it announced its full-year results. City analysts travelling to the meeting in Folkestone passed queues of trucks waiting to board ferries which were resolutely not crossing the Channel. Robert Malpas, who took over as chairman of Eurotunnel from the much-loathed Sir Alastair Morton earlier this year, found it hard to suppress a smile. "They could have blockaded in a month's time," he joked.

Even better would be in two months' time when the tunnel will be open for freight traffic (assuming it can get its safety certificate). The need for Eurotunnel to win back the level of business that it had before last November's fire will be critical to the refinancing of its £8.7 billion of debts. But Eurotunnel will be holding the direct action, which is so much a part of the French mentality, will not be in evidence on July 10 when it hopes shareholders will approve the restructuring deal.

Unlike most public companies in the UK or France, institutional investors do not control Eurotunnel. About 80 per cent of the company's shares are held by small investors and more than 85 per cent of those are French. The company needs representatives of a quarter of its 700,000 shareholders to turn up for the meeting even to go ahead. In the words of one banker: "In this situation any distribution from the sale of the licence to another operator would bring a first payout to exactly the bolshie shareholders who brought the company down."

Within the banking community there is the feeling that the shareholders deserve nothing. Eurotunnel debt was trading on the secondary debt markets at 45 per cent of face value yesterday — valuing the £8.7 billion of debts at a mere £3.9 billion — and many debt traders consider this too high. "We offered some at 43 the other day and there were no takers," said Gary Klesch of Klesch & Co, one of the most active in the market.

Yet the shares rose 1.2p yesterday to 71p, giving the company a market value of £600 million. Could Eurotunnel be worth more to shareholders dead than alive?



Sophie L'Hélias is unimpressed by the proposals

THE TIMES CITY DIARY



Tony O'Reilly is to have a theatre named after him



personal life — think again. The troubleshooting chief executive of Laura Ashley, who has been married and divorced four times, doesn't mince her American-twanged words when quizzed on the subject of English men. "They don't open up quite as much as I would like. I think you have to be the aggressor a little more than you do with American men. You've got to nurture them a bit."

Cayman bound

ANN NEALON'S colleagues will be green with envy when they hear about her appointment as chief executive of the Cayman Islands stock exchange. A former director of policy with the Hong Kong stock exchange, and a solicitor who has practised with

area where the food company features large, will cost \$18 million to build. It is to be funded by a donation from the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, topped up by the Howard Heinz Endowment. Building is expected to be complete by 1999, and the first play will be by Brian Friel, the Irish playwright.

Plain speaking

ANY City gent who thinks he can add to Ann Iversen's

Battling for Cheaper Car Insurance?



Quality low cost comprehensive cover

Call Harry at Hastings Direct FREE on

0800 00 1066

Please quote ref. T1032

Hastings DIRECT

0800 00 1066

Gilt lower as equities mark time

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997 High Low Last Company	Price (\$)	Yield %	P/E PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES			
400 407-Brown-Forman	42.75	5.5	18.2
428 447-Brown-Forman	42.75	5.5	18.2
428 577-Burns Stewart	88	7.1	14.9
1000 605-Deutsche A	98.5	7.1	13.8
1000 606-Deutsche A	98.5	7.1	13.8
520 624-Daimler	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 625-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 626-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 627-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 628-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 629-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 630-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 631-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 632-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 633-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 634-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 635-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 636-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 637-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 638-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 639-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 640-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 641-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 642-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 643-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 644-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 645-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 646-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 647-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 648-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 649-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 650-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 651-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 652-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 653-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 654-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 655-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 656-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 657-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 658-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 659-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 660-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 661-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 662-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 663-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 664-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 665-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 666-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 667-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 668-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 669-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 670-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 671-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 672-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 673-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 674-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 675-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 676-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 677-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 678-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 679-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 680-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 681-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 682-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 683-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 684-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 685-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 686-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 687-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 688-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 689-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 690-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 691-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 692-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 693-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 694-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 695-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 696-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 697-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 698-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 699-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 700-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 701-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 702-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 703-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 704-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 705-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 706-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 707-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 708-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 709-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 710-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 711-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 712-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 713-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 714-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 715-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 716-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 717-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 718-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 719-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 720-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 721-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 722-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 723-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 724-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 725-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 726-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 727-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 728-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 729-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 730-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 731-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 732-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 733-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 734-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 735-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 736-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 737-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 738-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 739-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 740-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 741-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 742-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 743-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 744-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 745-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 746-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 747-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 748-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 749-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 750-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 751-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 752-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 753-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 754-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 755-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 756-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 757-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 758-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 759-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 760-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 761-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 762-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 763-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 764-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 765-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 766-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 767-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 768-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 769-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 770-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 771-Daimler-Benz	109.5	7.1	14.7
180 772-Daimler-Benz	10		

Fitzwilton set to sign supermarket deal with Safeway

FROM EILEEN McCABE
IN DUBLIN

FITZWILTON, the holding company based in Dublin that owns the Wellworth supermarkets in Northern Ireland, looks set to sign a joint venture agreement with Safeway that could lead to the creation of a new all-Ireland supermarket chain.

Talks between the two sides, which began several months ago, were given fresh impetus by Tesco's decision to jump into the Irish market with the purchase last month of ABF's food retailing outlets on both sides of the border for £630 million. Yesterday Tony O'Reilly, the Fitzwilton chairman, said a number of options were being considered for the Wellworth chain,

which has an 18 per cent market share in Northern Ireland. Significantly, in view of concern expressed by small Irish supermarket suppliers after the Tesco deal, he said that regardless of which option was chosen, "we will give pride of place to our Northern Ireland suppliers who have stood by us so firmly over the years". It is believed that Mr O'Reilly favours a

joint venture arrangement under which Safeway would pay £80 million for 50 per cent of the Wellworth chain. Part of the proceeds of such a deal could be used to finance Fitzwilton's decision to exercise its option on a further 3.6 per cent of Waterford Wedgewood at a cost of £124 million. The move increases Fitzwilton's stake in the company to more than 16 per

cent. Mr O'Reilly and his extended family own a further 7 per cent of the company. Fitzwilton reported flat pre-tax profits of £15.1 million for the year to December 1996. Earnings per share slipped to 14.4p from 14.2p in the previous year. Mr O'Reilly said that the results reflected the multimillion pound development programme at Wellworth to help it to

meet the challenge of newcomers to the Northern Irish supermarket scene. In spite of a 6 per cent increase in sales, operating profits were down 7 per cent to just under £19 million.

Fitzwilton declared a final dividend of 1.35p, payable on August 29, which brings the total dividend for the year to 12.4p, compared with 12.25p.

Trading scandal plunges Nomura into red

FROM A CORRESPONDENT
IN TOKYO

NOMURA Securities, the troubled Japanese brokerage, plunged into the red last year after a \$2.94 billion charge against its affliting finance subsidiary.

Nomura said the parent company's net loss was Y271.51 billion (\$2.15 billion) in the year to March 31, against profits of Y23.1 billion last time.

But the nation's biggest brokerage said yesterday it enjoyed a healthy jump in its current profit in the year to March, helped by income from bond trading and underwriting.

Current profits were Y124.19 billion, up 35.7 per cent on year and the highest in six years. Current profit is pre-tax and includes gains and losses made on investments.

Japan's securities industry suffered a major setback last month when Nomura said two of its directors were involved in suspected illegal deals in which substantial sums of Nomura money were moved to the account of a corporate customer linked to a *sokaiya*, or business racket.

The outlook for Nomura's business remains gloomy. It has already been hit hard by the scandal, which has led many clients to refrain from trading it.

In March alone, Nomura's current profit dropped to about half the usual monthly levels due to the scandal, which cut its brokerage commissions and its share of the underwriting market, a company executive said yesterday.

"As one might expect, the scandal has had an effect [on our profits]," said Takamichi Arata, a Nomura director. He added that it was hard to calculate the extent. He said the brokerage hoped to see a parent current profit this month and in succeeding months by the cutting of operating costs.

Nomura was cutting its monthly operating expenditures to between Y20.2 billion and Y20.3 billion per month in April, down Y2 billion from March, said Mr Arata. That would be 22 per cent below the peak of Y26 billion (\$20.6 billion) five years ago.

Nomura's share of trading volume on the Tokyo bourse fell to 9.2 per cent in March from 11.4 per cent in February, topping it from the top spot it had held since February 1992.

Analysts said the fate of Nomura's business this financial year hinges on how hard the Ministry of Finance comes down on the brokerage after regulators complete their investigation.

Reports suggest the authorities could suspend some of Nomura's operations, including stock dealing on its own account, for about three months as a penalty for the scandal. Such a penalty would be the heaviest ever imposed on a securities firm in Japan.



JONATHAN PALMER, chief executive of Ugland International, the shipping group, which lifted pre-tax profits to £3 million for the year ended December 31, compared with £1.2 million for the previous nine

months. The results are the first since the group trebled its size by purchasing the Ugland family's stake in Hual, a Norwegian vehicle carrier, for £9.9 million, financed by increased borrowings and a

share issue. Sales were £63.2 million, up from £28.8 million, and earnings per share were 5.96p, up from 4.76p. No final dividend will be paid, making the total dividend 3.71p (3.21p for nine months).

Betterware chief better-off by £4.6m after special dividend

BY FRASER NELSON

ANDREW COHEN, chairman of Betterware, is to pay himself a special dividend of £4.6 million after the door-to-door housewares retailer returned its strongest results for three years.

Mr Cohen, who raised £33 million from selling his stake in the company before its shares crashed three years ago, will pick up a total of £6.34 million this year through his family holding, which controls 47 per cent of

the company. He said: "We have all the cash we need to expand the business. We have been looking at ways of returning value to shareholders, and a buyback was ruled out because the directors own 52 per cent of the stock."

The special dividend of 9.31p will be added to the final payout of 2.52p, lifting the total to 12.83p (5.2p), which is payable on May 29.

The success of its catalogues – which the company claims

now reach one in every two adults in the United Kingdom – helped to lift pre-tax profits to £11.5 million (£9.29 million) for the year to March 1.

Although it spent £2 million building up its presence in overseas markets, there was no profits return. Mr Cohen put this down to the costs of setting up shop, but said its overseas operations should account for 10 per cent of group profit next time.

The company has joined

forces with Avon, a catalogue business with worldwide retail sales of \$6 billion, to make inroads into the markets in Australia, Mexico and Brazil.

It said that the market in Argentina was performing ahead of expectations, with the Brazilian operation due to start by the summer.

Mr Cohen said that the overseas developments would all be co-ordinated from the United Kingdom, with catalogues from Brazil being de-

signed in London and beamed over to other countries for printing.

He added: "Countries without a developed retail infrastructure have more need for catalogues. If the consumer can't go to the goods, the goods must come to the consumer."

Overseas sales rose by 27 per cent to £1.8 million over the year, and the number of overseas representatives rose to 5,000 against the 10,000 that now operate in the UK.

Mr Cohen said that the company has yet to penetrate urban areas in the UK. "Our weakness is still inner cities. People tend to be out of the house more, and this is a problem. We have sales people going around offices to target this, although it has not made a great deal of difference to the figures just yet," he added.

On an underlying basis,

pre-tax profits rose 31 per cent to £10.8 million. Sales from UK home-selling rose by 11 per cent, as the number of long-term distributors strengthened. Overall earnings rose to 7.5p (5.9p) a share. Betterware's shares gained 10p, to a three-year high of 122p.

Tempus, page 30

BA to have Heathrow's Terminal 5 to itself

BY OLIVER AUGUST

BRITISH AIRWAYS will be the sole occupant of Heathrow's planned fifth terminal, currently the subject of a marathon public inquiry.

BAA, the airport operator, yesterday announced that BA would vacate its present home at Terminal 1, should construction of the controversial fifth terminal eventually go ahead. Terminal 1 would then be occupied by SAS, Lufthansa, Air Canada, United and Thai airlines.

BA's move becomes neces-

sary as it prepares for its own alliance with American Airlines which has yet to clear regulatory hurdles. A decision is expected this summer.

BAA expects the first phase of Terminal 5 to open in 2004. The agreement with BA is conditional on gaining planning permission, which BAA expects in 1998. But protesters have said they will try to delay building work at Heathrow for as long as possible.

Sir John Egan, BAA chief executive, said: "Our agree-

ment that British Airways should occupy Terminal 5, subject to planning permission, is a key step in the planning of this project which is so essential for Britain's economic future."

Bob Ayling, the BA chief executive, said: "It has long been our dream to offer our Heathrow customers all of our services under one roof. The terminal will provide the best environmental answer to meeting the demands for additional airport capacity."

Cowie founder attacks succession hiatus

BY OUR CITY STAFF

SIR TOM COWIE, founder of Cowie, yesterday criticised the board of the bus operator and vehicle distributor for failing to appoint a successor to Gordon Hodgson, 65, the current chief executive.

Sir Tom stopped short of backing Neil Pykett, widely considered to be a candidate for the job until his dismissal in January. But he said: "We've got a 65-year-old who is running a company with 13,000 employees, and they've sacked the one guy who could have done the job."

Mr Pykett, the former managing director of Cowie Financial Holdings, was dismissed for alleged gross misconduct, two months after handing in his notice. He decided to resign after concluding that the job of chief executive, which he had long coveted, was not likely to be vacated by Mr Hodgson even though he is near to retirement. His dispute with Mr Hodgson and Sir James McKinnon, chairman, started when they refused to announce Mr Pykett's resignation, or to allow him to sell company shares.

Mr Pykett was due to force an extraordinary meeting earlier this month to debate the affair. But at the last minute he withdrew his motion protesting against his sacking, saying that he would pursue a compensation claim through the courts instead.

Sir Tom, who is a major shareholder and who retired from the board in 1993, was speaking before yesterday's annual meeting in London. Mr Hodgson, who has said that he plans to stay on for another two years, did not attend the meeting.

Sir Tom played down the dispute but said: "It would have been better for all concerned if the whole thing had not been dragged through the public domain." He wants the board to report progress on the succession. "They've been looking for 15 months and there's been a deafening silence so far."

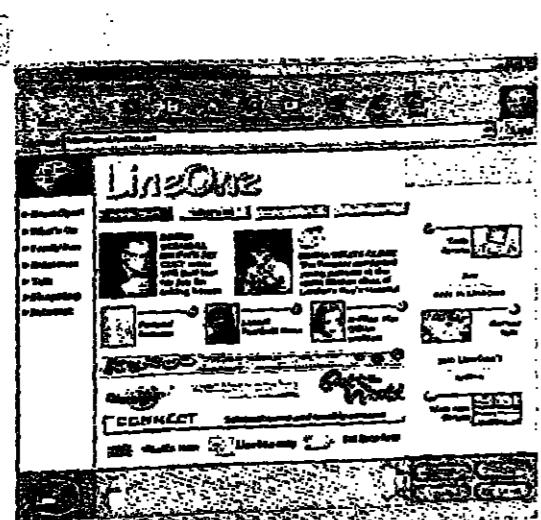
On current trading Sir James McKinnon said the overall performance remained strong. All core divisions were operating well and were continuing to provide a solid foundation for growth.

Hopkinsons in black

HOPKINSONS, the Manchester engineering group that is disposing of its gas and valves businesses to focus on carbonitron abrasives, achieved pre-tax profits of £500,000 in the year to January 31 (£1.7 million loss). Turnover was down from £14.194 to £9.773, while earnings per share rose to 0.41p, against a loss of 4.19p. A final dividend of 0.8p will be paid on July 31, maintaining the total at 1.3p. The group continues to look for acquisitions for its abrasives business, and plans to change its name to Carbo later this year.

Approach for Omnicare

SHARES of Omnicare rose 21 per cent yesterday as the distributor of oxygen cylinders said it had received a bid approach. The company, which has capitalised on the increase of patients being treated at home through shortage of hospital beds, is rumoured to be in talks with a US-listed healthcare company. Shares in the company, which joined the Alternative Investment Market at 60p about 18 months ago, have been steadily climbing since February. They rose 35p to 163.5p, valuing the company at £19.3 million.



It's time to try LineOne

One month's free membership.

10 hours' free access to LineOne and the Internet.

LineOne, the new UK Internet service from BT and News International, is designed just for you, but has something for everyone. Exclusive UK content; including news and sport from Sky and the UK's top newspapers, local 'What's On' listings, forums, computer games and reference information. Fast and easy Internet access with BT's award-winning Internet network. Plus LineOne's unique Intelligent Agent, AJ, will show you around. Unlimited access to LineOne and the Internet, for just £14.95 per month, including 5 e-mail addresses for you and your family. So you don't have to pay by the hour.

*Or get on-line using the free Rich List CD-ROM enclosed in your copy of The Sunday Times on 8.4.97.

www.LineOne.net

Call for your free software pack now!

0800 111 210

B19

THE TIMES LINE TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Ma
you
M

Life, the and ova

and etc

■ MUSEUMS

Ordinary objects in extraordinary materials as the Science Museum launches a new gallery



■ THEATRE 1

Bailegangaire augurs well for the Royal Court's new Irish discovery, Tom Murphy



THE TIMES ARTS

■ THEATRE 2

Rare Tennessee Williams proves to be full of autobiographical interest in Hammersmith



■ THEATRE 3

Tom Driberg reincarnate? Michael Gambon gives a terrific performance as the dissolute MP

PETER TREVOR

The Science Museum's new £4 million gallery will show you exactly what materialism means. Nigel Hawkes reports

Make what you will of it

Materials maketh man, or so the prehistorians preach. Stone, bronze and iron all gave their names to periods of history. Today the range of materials available to engineers and designers is so enormous that most of us would be hard-pressed to identify more than a handful of them.

At the Science Museum in South Kensington, the importance of materials is about to be recognised in a new gallery. Amid the dust and disorder of contractors striving to complete the job by the opening date of May 14, it is possible to see that a big investment — £4.5 million over the next ten years — is going to produce something good.

The old gallery was called Iron and Steel, Glass and Plastics. It's unlikely that anyone will remember it especially well, because it did not include any of those knockout items that stick in the mind. The new Challenge of Materials Gallery has set out quite deliberately to remedy the defect, with a stunning bridge made of glass and supported by fine steel wires which runs across the gallery 30 feet above the ground.

"Not everyone will want to go over it, and that's partly the point," says Heather Mayfield, project leader for the new gallery. "People look back on their visits to the museum and remember the really amazing things. We think this is going to be one of them."

Designed by bridge architect Chris Wilkinson and structural engineer Bryn Bird, the bridge is the lightest

possible structure to span the distance. It floats across the void, hanging from steel strands as fine as piano wire.

At some risk of gilding the lily, these strands, the glass deck and the handrail are linked to a computer which will turn the various stresses experienced by the bridge into sounds. The

possible structure to span the distance. It floats across the void, hanging from steel strands as fine as piano wire.

Those who prefer glass cases full of interesting objects will not be neglected. The gallery includes three huge "walk-through" cases, each with about 300 objects from the museum's collection.

These could be examples of the first time a material was used, unique objects, or things associated with somebody significant," explains Mayfield.

Wackier items to be found elsewhere include cardboard chairs, a Bakelite coffin, a wedding dress woven from steel wire, a stainless steel bomber jacket and a morning gown created by Vivienne Westwood from Axminster carpet. Students at Cordwainer's College in Hackney have produced some exotic shoes, made from unexpected materials. Not too many hints here of the pedagogic style of the old gallery, but the idea is to overturn preconceptions by showing familiar objects made from something strange.

The Times has many uses, as Choo-ee Lee's shoe shows

bridge will act, says the museum, like a huge musical instrument, the precise sounds depending on who is crossing it at the time.

The rest of the gallery is built around four themes: what materials are, how they are selected, how they are made, and how they are recycled. No modern gallery would be complete without plenty of "hands on" exhibits, and here they will include a demonstration at the atomic scale of how salt melts and vapourises when heated, and a display that turns from solid

something that can appeal both to the very young and to people with a professional interest in materials science.

"We were determined that the gallery wouldn't look great on opening day, but then gradually get out of date," Mayfield says. "So the sponsors have provided the money over ten years. That means the core displays will change every 18 months, and we have three smaller cases that will be changed every six months."

Karen Davies, education adviser for the gallery, says that the aim has been to produce

something that can appeal both to the very young and to people with a professional interest in materials science. At several places around the gallery keyboards will allow access to a database with additional information.

Hanging from the ceiling is a steel-framed house, a strong hint that the principal sponsor of the gallery is the British steel industry. Money has also come from ICI, the Aluminium Federation and Courts and Courts. That materials have an artistic as well as an engineering function is shown by a suspended steel fibre sculpture by the Japanese artist, Kyoko Kumai.

On paper, at least, the design of the gallery strikes a nice balance between the need to attract an audience and the more traditional museum functions of scholarship and display. Teachers, who now have to include a lot of materials science as part of the national curriculum, are already showing considerable interest. The science of materials has been transformed in the past 30 years, and it looks as if the Science Museum will at last have a gallery that does it justice.

THEATRE: Tom Murphy's powerful Irish writing; Tennessee Williams's play within a play

Life, the universe and everything

Bailegangaire
Ambassadors



THIS is the first of several plays by Tom Murphy that the Royal Court is bringing to the West End this year. And what does it bode for a season presumably designed to stop Londoners scratching their heads and muttering "Tom heads" and start filling him alongside Brian Friel in the section of their brainboxes devoted to contemporary Irish dramatists? At the end of the first act, I wasn't sure. Long before the end of the second, I knew the omens were excellent.

Act I bears a strong resemblance to *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, which the Court staged last year, yet lacks that play's focus, sharpness and humour.

This time it is a grandmother, not a daughter, who is forced to look after a difficult, demanding old crone, but her nerves are just as frazzled and her days as lonely as those of the protagonist of Martin McDonagh's black comedy. In this rural outback two sets of passing headlights within an hour count as "a lot of activity". For poor, put-upon Mary the only release from Mommo's endless jabbering is the odd visit by her married sister Dolly, with whom her relationship is decidedly edgy.

Rosaleen Linehan's

Mommo, slumped balefully in her bed, recognises Ruth McCabe's Dolly occasionally but Brid Brennan's Mary not at all. Moreover, she spends her waking hours obsessively repeating an old, incomplete story that comes close to matching the outpourings of Beckett's crazed derelict for incoherence. They concern the day her late husband stopped in a Bailegangaire pub after a bad day at the market. There he challenged a large, boisterous man — "the size and breadth of him, you'd have to step into the verge to give him sufficient right of way" — to a laughing contest. But for all Murphy's rich writing, do we care?

Yes, increasingly we do. As Act II approaches, Murphy's careful preparation brings its rewards. Everywhere the emotional stakes increase, higher and higher. The sisters talk of killing their grandmother. McCabe goes near-nuclear with rage at the absent husband who brutalises her on his trips home. And Brennan at last gets Mommo to finish what turns out to be a fascinating, terrible story. It tells how Bailegangaire be-

Rosaleen Linehan (Mommo) and Brid Brennan (Mary)

came known as "the place of no laughter" after a contest in which the source of hilarity becomes death, grief and unending pain.

By the end James Macdonald's superb cast have done more than prove that Murphy can write powerfully about personal disasters. They have lifted a family drama into a state-of-Ireland play, and that into something akin to a state-of-the-universe play. Even Friel might have shied from the line about God wanting to let him live "to see what transpires". With Murphy, the sentiment strikes both the mind and the heart.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Oh, but a wandering pil-

Players in pain

Out Cry
Lyric, Hammersmith

TENNESSEE Williams made one of the two characters in this play, which he first titled *The Two Character Play*, cry out: "We can't turn back to children in public view!" But he himself longed to be able to exorcise demons and recapture bliss by so doing, and the works in which he tried to bring surrogates of his sister and his young self to life on the stage became of special importance to him.

When he wrote the various versions of this play the wonder is that he could write at all, having become so dependent on ferocious cocktails of drugs and alcohol. Remarkably, a narrative line is discernible. Felice, an actor/playwright, and his actress sister Clare arrive in some theatre at the back of beyond to give a performance of *Out Cry*.

The play within the play, and the outer play too, will lead up to a re-enactment of the Inevitable Accident that orphaned them when Daddy (how could he!) shot Mother in the bathroom and then himself while staring out of a window.

When this scene eventually arrives the tension is hair-raising. Jason Merrells stands at a window, trembling in anticipation, while a terrified Sara Stewart levels a gun at his bare back. Then the positions are reversed. Bodies sweat, hands shake, faces strain. Thrilling stuff.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick Ormerod's set includes a 12ft tall giant, a watchful Victorian patriarch fiercely lit by Zerlina Hughes, who stares down at the actors at his feet, like Daddy, like Williams's father, unmoved by their sufferings.

Nick



■ POP 5

"Half of my songs are me doing therapy with myself," admits Paul McCartney



■ POP 6

Former *EastEnders* star Michelle Gayle calls her new album *Sensational*, but will anyone else?



■ POP 7

The best of Jimi Hendrix, and some dross as well, is repackaged as a double-album



■ POP 8

Punk with a 1990s spin, but little else to recommend it, comes from Gold Blade

Paul McCartney tells Des Burkinshaw why promoting his new solo album is the last thing on his mind

Fab? If you say so, pop-pickers

It has been an exciting couple of years for Paul McCartney. First, one of his old groups sold 40 million copies of the three double albums in their *Anthologies* series, making them the biggest sellers of the year in America. Bigger, in fact, than Alanis Morissette, Oasis and R.E.M. combined. But then, the Beatles have always been something of a special case. Then there was the knight-hood, and now there is his latest solo album, *Flaming Pie*.

Not that he is exactly crowing about it. In fact, his record company is a bit worried about the lack of promotional effort McCartney is putting into telling the world that he, the world's most successful writer of pop songs ever, has another bit of product on the way. He has agreed to just a handful of television, radio and press interviews. There will be no tour to back

I really
won't be
frantic if it
isn't a
success

it up. And, frankly, Fab Macca doesn't give a damn.

"I started to ask myself what's it all been worth — the Beatles, the money and fame — if at some point I can't go 'Now can I have a good time?'" McCartney says. "It's do or die. It would be great if *Flaming Pie* is a success, but I really won't be frantic if it isn't. If I keep on going like some manic preacher for the rest of my life, it just seems so pointless."

It has been four years since his last pop album, *Off the Ground*, and those diehard McCartney fans who share his view that he "got a bum rap" in comparison with the denigration of John Lennon will be hoping that *Flaming Pie* will be the great McCartney album for which they have been waiting ever since the Beatles broke up.

The good news is that *Flaming Pie*, written and recorded during the two-year *Anthology* project, is his strongest solo work for years. Oddly, the weakest track, *Young Boy*, has been chosen as the lead-off single in this country. That error aside, McCartney has made an album on a par with solo career high spots such as *Band on the Run*, *Tag of War* and *McCartney*, with a little help from friends old — Ringo Starr, George Martin — and never — Steve Miller, Jeff Lynne.

That the quality of the songwriting



Paul McCartney strikes his best Eddie Cochran pose for the photographer. "That's nice, dear," says the snapper, Linda McCartney

has shifted up a gear or two should not perhaps be surprising, considering the turmoil of his life these past four years. Besides the return of the Beatles and the knight-hood ("I would have been rude to turn it down"), there have been record-breaking world tours, the premiere of the *Liverpool Oratorio*, his first major classical work, and the writing of his second, *Standing Stone* (due to be performed for the first time at the Albert Hall in October). Most traumatic of all, he has supported

his wife Linda through her fight against breast cancer.

All this has left McCartney more introspective than before. The musical result is an album streaked with melancholy. He tentatively agrees with the assessment: "Yes, Linda's not been well the past year or so, although she's doing very well now," he says. "It's very difficult when you get that kind of situation in your life. I'm sensitive enough not to repress it all the time, and that helps you to deal with it."

Dropping his guard a little fur-

ther, McCartney confesses that his music has stopped him "going round the bend". "Music has always been a consolation for me," he says. "When you get the teenage blues, the great remedy is to write a song. I wrote *Ebony and Ivory* after a little marital tiff with Linda. It was like 'why can't we get it together — our piano can'."

So a fly on the wall at home might catch him huddled over the grand piano having a good cry? "Yes. It's an underrated aspect of songwriting. If you asked a lot of songwriters

you'd find that what happens is that they have a bad day so they skulk off to hide from everyone. Instead of lying on a psychiatrist's couch they talk to themselves in a song."

"I do that all the time. Half of my songs are very much me doing therapy with myself, and half of them I'm just writing about Desmond and Molly Jones."

The new album contains *Little Willow*, one of McCartney's most beautiful ballads since *Waterfalls*, written for the children of a close friend who died. "The morning I

work. "It was all post-Beatles stuff, and the Beatles were possibly the hardest act of all to follow. So Linda and I fell in with everyone else's opinion of it — which was that it was not as good as the Beatles, therefore it was no good at all. I hated a lot of songs from that period."

But his son James, who plays guitar on the new album, recently jogged his memory by digging out some *Wings* albums, to hear what the old man had been up to in the 1970s. "I'd forgotten a lot of it and it's really not as bad as I thought it was," McCartney says. "But I feel quite good because although it was put down, it doesn't go away. For anyone who does care to look at it, there's a hell of a lot to discover from that period."

This day may yet come. Part of his problem may have been to have had too wide a scope. Works as varied as *Yesterday*, the *Liverpool Oratorio*, *Helter Skelter* and *Mary Had a Little Lamb* under his belt, it is perhaps no surprise that he is misunderstood.

"Possibly. But not everyone is going to study you that hard. They go on first impressions. So if they see me singing *Yesterday* they go: 'He's a balladeer'. But that's because there never was a video of me singing *Helter Skelter*."

• *Flaming Pie* is released by Parlophone on May 12

Legends brought to life

SIDNEY BECHET
Great Original Performances 1924 to 1943 (CDS Records RPPCD 632)

ISSUED to celebrate the centenary of the great New Orleans clarinet/soprano player's birth, this meticulously annotated 24-track compilation contains 70 minutes of Sidney Bechet's best playing. His classic collaborations with trumpeter Tommy Ladnier, the more democratic Noble Sissle's *Swingsters* sessions in

the late 1930s, and the early 1940s sides with a stellar reconstituted Feetwarmers band form the meat of the album, but there are also fascinating glimpses of less familiar Bechet fare.

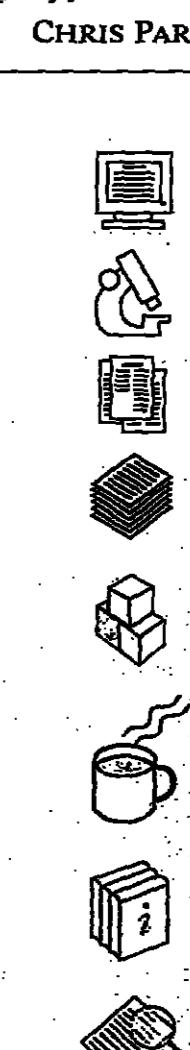
A roadhouse version of *One o'clock Jump*, tellingly juxtaposed with its studio successor, a unique outing on sarrusophone backing singer Eva Taylor and a cut from Bechet's 1941 one-man-band overdubbed session are all featured.

But overall it is Bechet's unrivalled ability to soar out of the ensembles, his playing equal parts grace and fire, that continues to justify his legendary status.

JIMMIE NOONE
The Apex of New Orleans Jazz (ASV CD AJA 5235)

BORN near New Orleans, and with an early career fully matching Bechet's, clarinetist Jimmie Noone might easily have been one of the seminal figures of early jazz. Instead, he is highly respected but not legendary, and this 74-minute compilation — comprising material from Noone's first 1923 session with drummer Ollie Powers, through his trademark recordings with his celebrated Apex Club Orchestra, to his revivalist *Kid Ory*-led recordings just before his premature death in California in 1944 — demonstrates why.

An elegant, restrained player with a round, full tone that blended sweetly with his most sympathetic frontline partner, alto player Joe Poston, Noone was handicapped for most of his career by mediocre sidemen playing somewhat pedestrian arrangements. Nevertheless, his nearly incisive but mellifluous playing is one of the great joys of interwar jazz.



Low pressure arias bring Gayle warning

POP ALBUMS: David Sinclair on the sleekly sterile soul songstress stylings of the new-look Michelle Gayle



Soap star in the suds: Michelle Gayle looks great but sounds less impressive on her second album, *Sensational*

MICHELLE GAYLE
Sensational (1st Avenue/RCA 74321419322 £13.99)

FROM soap star to soul singer is a career path fraught with many pitfalls. Michelle Gayle, once Hattie Taverner in *EastEnders*, has avoided most of them, but is still not quite where she would like to be with her optimistically titled second album, *Sensational*.

Granted, she has subtly repositioned herself in the marketplace. With its smouldering cover portrait and the intimate whispered introduction to the opening ballad, *Fly Away*, the album oozes mature, intimate, soulful vibes. And there is an impressive variety of sounds and styles on offer, from the Joan Armatrading-influenced acoustic pop of the two hit singles *Do You Know* and *Sensational*, to the rosy folk-blues of *Fakin' It*, the high point of the album.

But too few of the songs seem to come from the heart. A routine 1970s funk groove called *Working Overtime* and the drifting ballad *Yesterday* (how can anyone give a new song such a conspicuously second-hand title?) are typical of her appealing but undemanding approach, while lyrics such as "Good times, yes they come and go/I know that's just a part of life," fall

some way short of revealing any profound truth.

JIMI HENDRIX
First Rays of the New Rising Sun (Experience Hendrix/MCA MCD 1599 £9.99)

UNLIKE the surviving members of the Beatles, Jimi Hendrix is not around to give his blessing or otherwise to the tinkering with his back catalogue that has gone on almost continuously during the 27 years since his death. But, as with virtually every other "new" posthumous permutation of his songs, *First Rays of the New Rising Sun* would be redundant were the man still

alive. This one takes all the tracks from his essential 1971 album *The Cry of Love*, and jumbles them up with the more presentable numbers from the flawed *Rainbow Bridge* (1971) and the woefully standard *War Heroes* (1972) to create "a historically accurate recreation of the double album Hendrix was working on at the time of his death".

The result is a carefully

GOLD BLADE
Hometurf (Ultimate TOPPCD058 £14.99)

THEIR name may remind you of instant coffee, and sometimes such word associa-

annotated mixture of the marvelous *Freedom*, *Hey Baby*, *Angel* and the mediocre *Isabella*, *Earth Blues*, *Beginnings* which, accurate or not, certainly rewrites that chunk of Hendrix's history in a more elegantly contained way than the original albums did.

Also released this week are new editions of the core albums of Hendrix's repertoire, including *Are You Experienced* (complete with an additional six singles and B-sides), *Ax:is Bold as Love and Electric Ladyland*. It is said that the new editions are "digitally remastered from the master tapes for the first time", and the sound quality is good enough for the claim to be plausible. But, if true, what a scandalous indictment it is of all the times these albums have been marketed as "digitally remixed and remastered".

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 (1) Tellin' Stories Charlatans (Beggars Banquet)
- 2 (2) Spice Spice Girls (Virgin)
- 3 (3) In It for the Money Supergrass (Parlophone)
- 4 (4) Ultra Depeche Mode (Mute)
- 5 (5) Mother Nature Calls Cast (Polydor)
- 6 (6) Dig Your Own Hole Chemical Brothers (Virgin)
- 7 (7) White on Blonde Texas (Mercury)
- 8 (8) Blur Blur (Food)
- 9 (9) Wet Wet Wet Wet Wet Wet (Precious Organisation)
- 10 (10) Tragic Kingdom No Doubt (Interscope)

• Figure in brackets denotes last week's position

tions can be more than a coincidence. For Gold Blade, the English band led by motormouth rock journalist John Robb, offer a quick fix of 1970s punk culture with a 1990s spin that will do the trick nicely for anyone who has neither the time nor the patience to search out the real thing.

Their scattergun, pick'n'mix approach embraces a vast array of influences, from early Adam and the Ants on *Fastest Man Alive* to the Beastie Boys on *Not Even Jesus*. But dominating proceedings throughout is the inspiration of the Clash, especially on a series of ultra-belligerent rockers including *Strictly Hardcore* and *Black Elvis*.

With sleeve notes insisting that "the Tories cower as the Gold Blade righteous plan takes effect," their cartoon-revolutionary approach is entertaining enough. But whereas other afterday punks such as *Rocker* from The Crypt or the Jon Spencer Blues Explosion have brought something musically new to the party, *Hometurf* remains little more than the sum of Gold Blade's record collection.

Whatever you think you can do on the Internet, you probably can — if you know where to start. But it's a very big 'if'.

However, if your school subscribes to The TES Internet Service, for just £99 per year, you'll be guided to all the best educational sites on the Web as they come online.

We also provide Ofsted reports, a searchable archive of every TES article and review since October 1994, and our Internet staff room discussion forum. To make sure your school doesn't get left behind, look us up free at <http://www.thes.co.uk>, or call us today on 01708 378 379.

TES

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023 498

Copyright CIN

No nuisance in TV signal interference

Hunter and Others v Canary Wharf Ltd

Hunter and Others v London Docklands Development Corporation

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Hoffmann, Lord Cooke of Thorndon and Lord Hope of Craighead

[Speeches April 24]

A landowner was generally entitled to build on his land as he wished and, accordingly, would not be liable in nuisance because a large building had been erected with television reception.

An action in private nuisance could generally only be brought by a person with an interest in the land and persons with no proprietary interest with whom house-holders shared their homes, including wives, husbands, partners, children and other relatives, could not sue.

The House of Lords, Lord Cooke dissenting on the second issue, dismissed an appeal by the plaintiffs, originally Patricia Hunter and 689 others, and allowed a cross-appeal by the defendants, Canary Wharf Ltd, in the first action and an appeal by the defendants, London Docklands Development Corporation, in the second action from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Pill)

Broad approach to construing insurance policy

Sargent v GRE (UK) Ltd

Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Justice Mummery

[Judgment April 16]

Where, in a claim under a personal accident insurance policy, the relevant provision was unclear, a broader approach to the construction of a commercial document was appropriate, embracing consideration of the policy as a whole, its context, scheme and surrounding circumstances.

Accordingly, where the claim was for a specified sum under a clause in the policy for "permanent total disablement from attending to any occupation", the claimant, who was permanently disabled from attending to the occupation he followed at the time his disabling injury occurred and during the period of cover, was entitled to such sum.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing the appeal of the plaintiff, Christopher David Sargent, against the judgment of Judge Michael Evans QC, who on September 5, 1995, in Haverfordwest County Court had dismissed his claim for £10,000 pursuant to his personal accident policy with the defendant, GRE (UK) Ltd, following an incident on the football field in November 1991 which resulted in amputation of the plaintiff's right index finger and permanent disablement from continuing his occupation as a dry line joiner.

Mr Richard Colbey for the plaintiff; Mr Anthony Reddick for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE MUMMERY said that the plaintiff took out the policy while serving as a corporal

[The Times October 13, 1995; [1996] 2 WLR 348], who had reversed rulings on preliminary issues by Judge Richard Haver, QC, sitting on official referees' business, on September 5, 1994.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, Mr Philip Havers, QC, and Mr Daniel Stillor for both defendants; Mr Daniel Brennan, QC, Mr Charles Pugh and Miss Sarah Moor for the claimants.

LORD GOFF said that the plaintiffs in the first action claimed that the interference with their television reception had been caused by the construction of the Canary Wharf Tower on land developed by the defendants. The tower was nearly 250 metres high and over 50 metres square.

The plaintiffs, who lived at the material time in an area on the estate of Dogs called the shadow area, said that, because of the size and the metal in its surface, it had caused interference with the signals from the BBC transmitter at Crystal Palace. A relay transmitter had subsequently been built to overcome the problem.

In the second action, the plaintiffs, residents in the affected area, claimed damages in respect of damage caused by what they claimed to be an excessive amount of dust created by the construction by the defendants of the Limehouse Link Road.

That interference with television reception might in appropriate

circumstances be protected by the law of nuisance but had been recognised in Canada, in *Nor-West Video Services Ltd v Ontario Hydro* [1978] 84 DLR (3d) 221, 231.

There was, however, a more formidable obstacle to the plaintiffs' claim. Their complaint rested simply on the presence of the defendants' building. As a general rule, a man was entitled to build on his own land, although nowadays subject to planning control.

Moreover, as a general rule that the plaintiffs in the first action claimed that the interference with their television reception had been caused by the construction of the Canary Wharf Tower on land developed by the defendants. The tower was nearly 250 metres high and over 50 metres square.

For an action in private nuisance to lie in respect of interference with enjoyment of land it would generally arise from something emanating from the defendant's land: noise, dust, fumes, small vibrations and suchlike. The deflection of sunlight so as to cause a dazzling glare. *Bank of New Zealand v Greenwood* [1964] 1 NZLR 525.

The mere fact that a building on the defendant's land got in the way and so prevented something from reaching the plaintiff's land was, generally speaking, not enough.

His Lordship therefore agreed with the Court of Appeal that no

action lay in private nuisance for interference with television caused by the mere presence of a building.

Subject to one exception, namely that a person who was in exclusive possession of land could sue even though he could not prove title to it.

Postier v Watlington UDC [1906] 1 KB 648, it had for many years been regarded as settled law that a person who had no right in the land could not sue in private nuisance. *Malone v Lesley* [1907] 2 KB 446.

Recently, however, the Court of Appeal had departed from that line of authority in *Khorasandian v Bush* [1993] 1 QB 727, where, by a majority, it had held that the plaintiff had been entitled to invoke the tort of private nuisance against the defendant from making harassing telephone calls to her parents' home.

The question was whether their Lordships should be persuaded to depart from established principle and recognise a right in respect of private nuisance in persons who were no more than mere licensees on the land.

Any departure faced the problem of defining the category of persons who would have the right to sue.

The Court of Appeal in the present case had adopted the not easily identifiable category of those who had a "substantial link" with the land.

Solicitors: Leigh Day & Co; Ashurst Morris Crisp.

Bank must rebut wife's challenge

Barclays Bank plc v Boulter and Another

Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Mummery and Sir Brian Neill

[Judgment April 23]

Where in a possession action by a bank as mortgagee of freehold property the wife counterclaimed that her half share of the property was free of the bank's legal charge.

The bank as creditor had the burden of proving, in reply to the wife's challenge, that it had no constructive notice of the matters she relied on in support of her claim for relief.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment, allowing the interlocutory appeal of the second defendant wife, Julie Boulter. From a ruling of Judge Simmonds in Luton County Court on September 18, 1996, that it was necessary for the plaintiff to plead constructive notice of the facts relied on in support of her claim for relief.

The relevant provision for the person not a member of the Armed Forces drew a distinction between an occupation in the Armed Forces and the occupation of a person who was not a member of the Armed Forces.

The sum of £10,000 was payable to a member of the Armed Forces who had permanent total disablement "from following own or alternative occupation in HM Forces necessitating medical discharge from [the Forces]". The sum was payable even though the insured was not permanently disabled from following other occupations outside the Armed Forces.

The relevant provision for the person not a member of the Armed Forces drew no distinction between "own or alternative occupation" in its context to any relevant occupation.

The plaintiff, no longer a member of the Army, was thus entitled to payment as he was permanently disabled from attending to his occupation as a dry liner. It was not relevant to inquire whether he was also disabled from attending to an alternative occupation.

Lord Justice Thorpe agreed and Lord Justice Leggatt gave a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Bissmire Fudge & Co; Haverfordwest; Sainsbury Hill, Bristol.

It is important to bear in mind that the policy was primarily tailored to fit serving members of the Armed Forces.

The table listing the benefits drew a distinction between an occupation in the Armed Forces and the occupation of a person who was not a member of the Armed Forces.

The sum of £10,000 was payable to a member of the Armed Forces who had permanent total disablement "from following own or alternative occupation in HM Forces necessitating medical discharge from [the Forces]". The sum was payable even though the insured was not permanently disabled from following other occupations outside the Armed Forces.

The relevant provision for the person not a member of the Armed Forces drew no distinction between "own or alternative occupation" in its context to any relevant occupation.

The plaintiff, no longer a member of the Army, was thus entitled to payment as he was permanently disabled from attending to his occupation as a dry liner. It was not relevant to inquire whether he was also disabled from attending to an alternative occupation.

The relevant provision for the person not a member of the Armed Forces drew a distinction between an occupation in the Armed Forces and the occupation of a person who was not a member of the Armed Forces.

The table listing the benefits drew a distinction between an occupation in the Armed Forces and the occupation of a person who was not a member of the Armed Forces.

The sum of £10,000 was payable to a member of the Armed Forces who had permanent total disablement "from following own or alternative occupation in HM Forces necessitating medical discharge from [the Forces]". The sum was payable even though the insured was not permanently disabled from following other occupations outside the Armed Forces.

The relevant provision for the person not a member of the Armed Forces drew no distinction between "own or alternative occupation" in its context to any relevant occupation.

The plaintiff, no longer a member of the Army, was thus entitled to payment as he was permanently disabled from attending to his occupation as a dry liner. It was not relevant to inquire whether he was also disabled from attending to an alternative occupation.

Lord Justice Thorpe agreed and Lord Justice Leggatt gave a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Bissmire Fudge & Co; Haverfordwest; Sainsbury Hill, Bristol.

Striking out case brought in abuse of process

Grovit and Others v Doctor and Others

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Woolf, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, Lord Steyn and Lord Clyde

[Speeches April 24]

But who was to be included in that category? It was plainly intended to include husbands, wives, or partners, and their children, and even other relatives. But was it also to include a lodger, or an au pair girl or resident nurse?

For any event, the extension of the tort in that way would transform it from a tort to land into a tort to the person, in which damages could be recovered in respect of something less serious than personal injury and the criteria for liability were founded not on negligence but on the interests of neighbours in the use of their land. That was not an acceptable way to develop the law.

Khorasandian v Bush must be overruled in so far as it held that a mere licensee could sue in private nuisance.

Lord Lloyd, Lord Hoffmann and Lord Hope delivered concurring opinions.

However, if there was an abuse of process, it was not strictly necessary to establish want of prosecution under either of the limbs identified by Lord Diplock in *Birkett v James* [1978] AC 297.

Once a conclusion was reached that the reason for the delay was one which involved abusing the process of the court in maintaining proceedings, when there was no intention of carrying the case to trial, the court was entitled to dismiss the proceedings.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing an appeal by Felix Faried Ismail Grovit, from the dismissal of his appeal by the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Gidwell and Lord Justice Evans) on October 28, 1993, from a decision of Mr John Crowley, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, on October 30, 1992, that the writ and statement of claim in the case for which he had been sued in his capacity as a dry liner should be struck out for want of prosecution.

Mr Isaac Jacob and Mr Martin Young for Mr Grovit; the respondents were not represented.

LORD WOOLF said that the approach which was adopted by courts on an application to dismiss an action for want of prosecution was set out by Lord Diplock in *Birkett v James* (at p381-3).

The power should be exercised only where the court is satisfied either (i) that the default has been intentional and contumelious, or (ii) that the conduct of the plaintiff was insufficient to amount to a peremptory order of the court or conduct amounting to an abuse of process of the court; or (3)(a) that there has been inordinate and inexcusable delay in bringing the action to trial.

In the court's view, the onus was on the defendant to show that the conduct of the plaintiff was sufficient to amount to an abuse of process of the court.

Those criticisms were considered by Lord Griffiths in *Department of Transport v Chris Smiler Transport Ltd* [1989] AC 197, 1204-1205. The period which had elapsed since Lord Griffiths' statement of the principle did not affect that separate ground for striking out or staying proceedings.

The requirement laid down by the second principle that the delay had to cause serious prejudice to the defendant had been the subject of criticism.

Those criticisms were considered by Lord Griffiths in *Department of Transport v Chris Smiler Transport Ltd* [1989] AC 197, 1204-1205. The period which had elapsed since Lord Griffiths' statement of the principle did not affect that separate ground for striking out or staying proceedings.

The requirement laid down by the second principle that the delay had to cause serious prejudice to the defendant had been the subject of criticism.

Those criticisms were considered by Lord Griffiths in *Department of Transport v Chris Smiler Transport Ltd* [1989] AC 197, 1204-1205. The period which had elapsed since Lord Griffiths' statement of the principle did not affect that separate ground for striking out or staying proceedings.

The requirement laid down by the second principle that the delay had to cause serious prejudice to the defendant had been the subject of criticism.

Those criticisms were considered by Lord Griffiths in *Department of Transport v Chris Smiler Transport Ltd* [1989] AC 197, 1204-1205. The period which had elapsed since Lord Griffiths' statement of the principle did not affect that separate ground for striking out or staying proceedings.

The requirement laid down by the second principle that the delay had to cause serious prejudice to the defendant had been the subject of criticism.

Those criticisms were considered by Lord Griffiths in *Department of Transport v Chris Smiler Transport Ltd* [1989] AC 197, 1204-1205. The period which had elapsed since Lord Griffiths' statement of the principle did not affect that separate ground for striking out or staying proceedings.

The requirement laid down by the second principle that the delay had to cause serious prejudice to the defendant had been the subject of criticism.

Those criticisms were considered by Lord Griffiths in *Department of Transport v Chris Smiler Transport Ltd* [1989] AC 197, 1204-1205. The period which had elapsed since Lord Griffiths' statement of the principle did not affect that separate ground for striking out or staying proceedings.

The requirement laid down by the second principle that the delay had to cause serious prejudice to the defendant had been the subject of criticism.

Those criticisms were considered by Lord Griffiths in *Department of Transport v Chris Smiler Transport Ltd* [1989] AC 197, 1204-1205. The period which had elapsed since Lord Griffiths' statement of the principle did not affect that separate ground for striking out or staying proceedings.

The requirement laid down by the second principle that the delay had to cause serious prejudice to the defendant had been the subject of criticism.

Those criticisms were considered by Lord Griffiths in *Department of Transport v Chris Smiler Transport Ltd* [1989] AC 197, 1204-1205. The period which had elapsed since Lord Griffiths' statement of the principle did not affect that separate ground for striking out or staying proceedings.

The requirement laid down by the second principle that the delay had to cause serious prejudice to the defendant had been the subject of criticism.

Those criticisms were considered by Lord Griffiths in *Department of Transport v Chris Smiler Transport Ltd* [1989] AC 197, 1204-1205. The period which had elapsed since Lord Griffiths' statement of the principle did not affect that separate ground for striking out or staying proceedings.

The requirement laid down by the second principle that the delay had to cause serious prejudice to the defendant had been the subject of criticism.

Those criticisms were considered by Lord Griffiths in *Department of Transport v Chris Smiler Transport Ltd* [1989] AC 197, 1204-1205. The period which had elapsed since Lord Griffiths' statement of the principle did not affect that separate ground for striking out or staying proceedings.

The requirement laid down by the second principle that the delay had to cause serious prejudice to the defendant had been the subject of criticism.

Those criticisms were considered by Lord Griffiths in *Department of Transport v Chris Smiler Transport Ltd* [1989] AC 197, 1204-1205. The period which had elapsed since Lord Griffiths' statement of the principle did not affect that separate ground for striking out or staying proceedings.

The requirement laid down by the second principle that the delay had to cause serious prejudice to the defendant had been the subject of criticism.

Those criticisms were considered by Lord Griffiths in *Department of Transport v Chris Smiler Transport Ltd* [1989] AC 197, 1204-1205. The period which had elapsed since Lord Griffiths' statement of the principle did not affect that separate ground for striking out or staying proceedings.

The requirement laid down by the second principle that the delay had to cause serious prejudice to the defendant had been the subject of criticism.

Those criticisms were considered by Lord Griffiths in *Department of Transport v Chris Smiler Transport Ltd* [1989] AC 197, 1204-1205. The period which had elapsed since Lord Griffiths' statement of the principle did not affect that separate ground for striking out or staying proceedings.

The requirement laid down by the second principle that the delay had to cause serious prejudice to the defendant had been

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 0171 680 6800

INDEPENDENT EDUCATION

FAX:
0171 782 7899

Hordle Walhampton School
LYMINGTON, HAMPSHIRE
The merged Walhampton and Hordle House Schools from 1 September 1997
"We seek the good in the young and aim to educate the whole child"
Co-Educational Preparatory Boarding & Day 2-13 years



OPEN MORNING
Saturday 10 May 1997 - 10.00 am
Meet the Principal Elect and the Staff
See the School at work

Please telephone the School Secretary on 01590-672013 for further information

Hordle Walhampton School Trust estate by provide a high quality Boarding & Day education for boys & girls aged 2-13 yrs
Charity Number 307330

**ABERLOUR HOUSE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL**
A TIME TO THINK
ABOUT
THEIR FUTURE

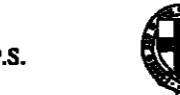
*Home from home
in a happy purposeful
atmosphere*

The School is set overlooking the river Spey in the grandeur of the Scottish Highlands. Interested parents who would like their children aged 8-13 to be educated in this unique and beautiful setting are asked to contact:

The Headmaster, Aberlour House, Aberlour, Banffshire AB38 9LJ
Tel: 01346 871267 Fax: 01346 871238

*Aberlour House is a co-educational boarding & day school which exists to provide a high quality education to boys & girls aged 8-13 yrs
Charity Number 307330*

**St. George's School
Windsor Castle**



C.S.A.

A Preparatory Day and Boarding School for Girls and Boys 3 - 13

- Boarding for Boys 7 - 13 years
- Boys Choristers sing in St George's Chapel
- One of the top choir schools in the country
- Set in the Chiltern Gardens and Home Park
- Purpose Built Nursery and Pre-Preparatory Department
- Nine acre Sports Field
- Well equipped Gymnasium
- Indoor Pool
- High academic and musical record of achievement with scholarships to top independent schools.

OPEN MORNINGS
Saturday 3rd May, 1997
10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

For more information
The Head Master
The Revd. Roger Marsh
St George's School
Windsor Castle, SL4 1QF
Tel: 01753 625553
Fax: 01753 624093

**THE PILGRIMS' SCHOOL
WINCHESTER**



Boys' Preparatory School (IAPS) for Boarders, Weekly Boarders and Dayboys. The School has a strong academic record and there are exceptional facilities for music. Boys are prepared for the Common Entrance Examination and Scholarships to senior independent schools, with a high proportion going to Winchester College. The School is situated in beautiful buildings in the Cathedral Close, with adjacent playing fields in the grounds of Wolvesey Palace. For further information, please contact The Headmaster, The Pilgrims' School, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 9LT. Telephone: 01962 854189.

The Pilgrims' School is a registered charity (No.307337) which exists to provide a high quality education to boys aged 8-13 yrs
Charity Number 307330

**MALDON COURT
SCHOOL**
(I.A.P.S and I.S.I.S.)
Accredited by I.S.J.C. 1994



Joint Principals:
Anne & Tony Sutton
Headmaster: A.G. Webb, B.Ed.

We are a co-educational day school for children from 4 to 11 years old, preparing them for independent school entrance, the Eleven-Plus and the National Curriculum. High academic and behaviour standards.

Listed as one of 29 top preparatory schools in the Sunday Times Good Primary and Preparatory Schools Guide 1996

The School is situated in a delightful and attractive setting. It has a reputation for a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Brochure available from the School upon request.

Maldon Court School, Silver Street, Maldon, Essex, CM9 4QE
Fax/Telephone: (01261) 853529

**ST. ANTONY'S
LEWESTON**

SHERBORNE, DORSET, DT9 6EN
A CATHOLIC INDEPENDENT
BOARDING, FLEXI-BOARDING AND DAY
SCHOOL (GSA/GBSA) FOR GIRLS 11-18

Excellent facilities include:

- Senior Science Centre
- Design & Technology Centre
- Arts Studio
- Sports Hall, Swimming Pool & Multi-Gym
- Modern Health Centre
- Flourishing Sixth Form
- Academic and Music scholarships available

For Prospects and entry details apply to
The Headmistress
Telephone: 01963 210691

St Antony's Leweston School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating children

There is such a thing as a
'free lunch'...

**AT GORDONSTOUN
SCHOOL**

...there is also a
'free weekend'
for your children

Over the weekend of 29th - 31st August 1997 we invite you to send any of your children planning senior school at 13+ in September 1998 or 1999 to spend a weekend with us and sample the Gordonstoun Experience. Parents will also be welcome to visit and tour the School - why not make it a family weekend?

For full details please contact:
The Headmaster, Gordonstoun School, Elgin, Moray IV30 2RF
Tel: 01343 830445 Fax: 01343 830651
E-mail: jdthomas@rmplc.co.uk

Gordonstoun School is a co-educational boarding & day school with charitable status founded solely for educational purposes

Bedford School
(EMC Day and Boarding for Boys - Founded in 1552)

• Early at all ages 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 16 by examination and interview.
• Continuous curriculum through Preparatory and Upper schools.
• High academic standards.
98.3% pass rate at A level with 81.4% grades A-C, 97.6% pass rate at GCSE with 51.5% A* or grade 9 and 84.6% grades A*-B.

• Excellent Sports, Art, Drama and Music
• A caring boarding environment with a newly built Junior Boarding House and six Senior Boarding Houses.

• Close relationship with Bedford High School for Girls and The Dame Alice Herford School for Girls.

For prospectus and entry information, contact Mrs Christine Fox, The Registrar's Secretary, Bedford School, Drury Avenue, Bedford, MK40 2TU.
Tel: 01234 346444 Fax: 01234 346008

Bedford School's objective is to provide high quality education for boys aged 7-18

Charity Number 204817

Bedford School is a charitable trust for the purpose of educating boys

**St Paul's Cathedral
Choir School**
New Chapel, London EC4M 8AD
Tel: 0171 248 5158 Fax: 0171 328 6569
Day Boys' Prep. School and residential Choir School

Applications are invited for this famous boys' school for 7-13 year old boys beside St Paul's Cathedral in the City of London.

Places are available for non-chorister DAY BOYS and CHORISTERS (who board and join St. Paul's Cathedral Choir). Day boy candidates (of any faith) are invited for interview and a short test before entry in September (normally at 7+). The next voice trial for choristers (8+ to 12 years old) will be on

SATURDAY 10 May 1997
For prospectus and viewing please contact the Headmaster, Mr Stephen Stiles.

**ST ALBANS HIGH
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**

Independent Church of England Day School for Girls aged 7 to 18

- High academic standards
- Wide range of extra-curricular activities
- Caring environment
- Committed to excellence
- Scholarships and Bursaries
- Government Assisted Places
- Coach service

OPEN MORNINGS
Saturday 4 October 1997
Saturday 15 November 1997

**Townsend Avenue, St Albans
Herts AL1 3J**

Tel: (01727) 857918

Registered Charity No: 311965 The school is a registered charity which exists to provide education for children

the space to study
to develop all talents and potential
to compete, to win and to lose
to live with others
the space to be an individual

OPEN DAY
Saturday 17th May 9.30am-12 noon

ASSISTED PLACES
Assessment Day - Monday 12th May

The Duke of Kent School is an IAPS co-educational school for 160 children aged 4-13. Set in beautiful grounds and offering superb facilities, we provide a caring and happy environment for each of our pupils, with an emphasis on personal tuition and individual development.

If you would like to find out more about us, come along to our Open Day on May 17th when the Headmaster, staff and children will be happy to answer your questions and show you around.

DUKE OF KENT SCHOOL
Ewhurst, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 1NS
Tel: Cranleigh (01483) 277313 Fax: (01483) 273862.

the space to study
to develop all talents and potential
to compete, to win and to lose
to live with others
the space to be an individual

OPEN MORNING 21st JUNE

Windlesham is one of the country's leading co-educational preparatory schools for children up to the age of 13.

For further information and a prospectus please contact the Registrar on 01903 873207

**INDEPENDENT
EDUCATION**

**Could this be
your son?**
We are still looking for three musical boys (aged 7-9) to join us in September. Maybe your son could be one to benefit from an exceptional educational opportunity. The next voice trial will be held on Monday 21st MAY.

For further details of this world famous Choir and its unique School, please contact:

The Headmaster, Gordon Roland-Adams, Westminster Abbey Choir School, Dean's Yard, London SW1P 3JY.
Tel: 0171 222 6151
Fax: 0171 222 1568

OPEN DAY

**DEVONSHIRE HOUSE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL**
69 Fitzjohn's Avenue, Hampstead, London NW3 6PB

OPEN DAYS 1997

Wednesday 30th April
Thursday 1st May

There will be guided tours from 10.00 a.m. on each day for those who would like to see around the School and Nursery. The Headmistress will be available to give advice and to answer your questions.

If you would like to attend either of these Open Days please telephone 0171 435 1916 and ask to speak to the Admissions' Secretary.

**Changing School?
Why not talk to
MPW?**

FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO DISCUSS
YOUR OPTIONS, PHONE US ON
0345 585597

THE MPW SIXTH-FORM COLLEGES IN
BIRMINGHAM, BRISTOL & CAMBRIDGE • LONDON

Hordle Walhampton School
LYMINGTON, HAMPSHIRE
The merged Walhampton and Hordle House Schools from 1 September 1997
"We seek the good in the young and aim to educate the whole child"
Co-Educational Preparatory Boarding & Day 2-13 years



OPEN MORNING
Saturday 10 May 1997 - 10.00 am
Meet the Principal Elect and the Staff
See the School at work

Please telephone the School Secretary on 01590-672013 for further information

Hordle Walhampton School Trust estate by provide a high quality Boarding & Day education for boys & girls aged 2-13 yrs
Charity Number 307330

**ABERLOUR HOUSE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL**
A TIME TO THINK
ABOUT
THEIR FUTURE

*Home from home
in a happy purposeful
atmosphere*

The School is set overlooking the river Spey in the grandeur of the Scottish Highlands. Interested parents who would like their children aged 8-13 to be educated in this unique and beautiful setting are asked to contact:

The Headmaster, Aberlour House, Aberlour, Banffshire AB38 9LJ
Tel: 01346 871267 Fax: 01346 871238

*Aberlour House is a co-educational boarding & day school which exists to provide a high quality education to boys & girls aged 8-13 yrs
Charity Number 307330*

**St. George's School
Windsor Castle**



C.S.A.

A Preparatory Day and Boarding School for Girls and Boys 3 - 13

- Boarding for Boys 7 - 13 years
- Boys Choristers sing in St George's Chapel
- One of the top choir schools in the country
- Set in the Chiltern Gardens and Home Park
- Purpose Built Nursery and Pre-Preparatory Department
- Nine acre Sports Field
- Well equipped Gymnasium
- Indoor Pool
- High academic and musical record of achievement with scholarships to top independent schools.

OPEN MORNINGS
Saturday 3rd May, 1997
10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

For more information
The Head Master
The Revd. Roger Marsh
St George's School
Windsor Castle, SL4 1QF
Tel: 01753 625553
Fax: 01753 624093

**THE PILGRIMS' SCHOOL
WINCHESTER**



Boys' Preparatory School (IAPS) for Boarders, Weekly Boarders and Dayboys. The School has a strong academic record and there are exceptional facilities for music. Boys are prepared for the Common Entrance Examination and Scholarships to senior independent schools, with a high proportion going to Winchester College. The School is situated in beautiful buildings in the Cathedral Close, with adjacent playing fields in the grounds of Wolvesey Palace. For further information, please contact The Headmaster, The Pilgrims' School, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 9LT. Telephone: 01962 854189.

The Pilgrims' School is a registered charity (No.307337) which exists to provide a high quality education to boys aged 8-13 yrs
Charity Number 307330

**MALDON COURT
SCHOOL**
(I.A.P.S and I.S.I.S.)
Accredited by I.S.J.C. 1994



EDUCATION

Arts survive the generation gap

John O'Leary looks at a new study on attitudes to the arts in schools

Every report on the state of the arts in schools carries the message that the combined pressures of examination league tables and budget cuts are squeezing culture out of the curriculum.

However, a study published yesterday will come as a relief to those who see the arts as a vital part of a rounded education. Academics at Exeter University conclude that the subjects have maintained their popularity with pupils and appear to be giving at least as much satisfaction as they did 25 years ago.

The report, *The state of the arts*, acknowledges that its sample is small and not necessarily representative of the country. Although 2,500 pupils were involved, limited funding restricted the survey to only five schools, all of which are known for their work in the arts. But the parallels with a much larger study conducted in 1971 suggest that the findings are not out of line with the teenagers' views.

In the earlier research by the Schools Council, school leavers characterised art as "useless but interesting" and music as "useless and boring".

Pupils' answers in 1996 suggested that the four main subjects — art, dance, drama and music — had become more enjoyable, although there were significant differences in attitude between boys and girls and between age groups. As the table below illustrates, the pecking order of subjects remains almost unchanged.

Crafts, a label covering subjects as diverse as woodwork and home economics, were popular with almost three-quarters of secondary-school pupils in 1971. Technology, the present-day equivalent, achieved an almost identical rating, as did physical education in second place and, to a lesser extent, English in third.

So consistent were the ratings over the 25-year period that the report suggests that a "law of culture" operates in schools. "Either student priorities are immune to all attempts to reconstruct the curriculum, or the 'reforms' of the past 25 years have not been as radical as might have been supposed."

Like other popularity surveys, the Exeter report shows a yawning gender gap in the attitudes to PE and English. Four out of five boys, but fewer than half the girls, favoured PE, with the ratings reversed for English. Mathematics gained in popularity, but science's rating slipped, with physics the worst affected.

Dance did not appear as a subject in 1971, but outscored

* State of the Arts, £10 from Malcolm Ross, University of Exeter School of Education, Heaviley Road, Exeter EX1 2LU.

MOST POPULAR SUBJECTS

Subject	1971		Subject	1996	
	%	%		%	%
1. Crafts*	74.0	74.5	1. Technology*	68.0	68.5
2. PE	67.0	67.5	2. PE	68.0	68.5
3. English	53.0	53.0	3. English	57.0	57.0
4. Science	50.0	49.5	4. Mathematics	43.5	43.5
5. Art	43.0	43.0	5. Art	42.0	42.0
6. Drama	39.5	39.5	6. Science	40.0	40.0
7. Mathematics	36.0	36.0	7. Drama	36.5	36.5
8. History	30.0	30.0	8. Geography	25.5	25.5
9. Geography	20.0	20.0	9. English	23.0	23.0
10. Foreign languages	27.0	27.0	10. Foreign languages	19.0	19.0
11. Music	22.0	22.0	11. Music	15.0	15.0

* Crafts in 1971 included the full range of subjects then known as boys' and girls' crafts. To produce a matching sample, technology includes computing, media studies and craft, design and technology in 1996.

Bob Salisbury argues for a more radical approach to present financial problems

Schools face up to an underfunded future

ceaselessly to raise extra money for hardware, computers such as this certainly sticks in the craw.

So what is to be done for financial survival in the next century? Of course everyone hopes that future governments will see sense and fund education properly, but until then what can schools do to ensure that youngsters do not have their life chances harmed? Many of the pragmatic strategies now being seen in schools are surely unsustainable in the long term.

Take, for instance, the trend towards rising class sizes. Not only is this bad news educationally, but there are limits to how far it can continue. Put bluntly, it just might be possible to teach 30, perhaps even 35, but even the very best performers would surely capitulate when the numbers topped 40 or 50.

Given that funding will continue to decline, a more radical approach to the way our organisations are structured will be needed.

Eight years ago in my school we realised that mas-

ter and continuous change was underway in education and that this would not diminish in the future. Indeed, we felt the rate of change would increase and its precise direction was unpredictable. Our traditional hierarchical pyramid with its three deputies, senior teachers and heads of faculty was both expensive and slow and did not use fully the talent and expertise of all staff. Layers of management were removed, access given to

all information, people empowered to make decisions and a risk-taking culture encouraged. Sustained inertia was seen as the only crime.

Some of the money released from this restructuring was used to fund specific projects and staff were rewarded for leading these initiatives.

The main reason behind this philosophy was to establish a quick-response entrepreneurial culture which motivated and excited people and which made use of all of the talent and skill in the organisation.

Reducing overall staffing costs was an added bonus and in an era of declining funding we need to question how much longer schools can continue to operate with massive hierarchies. I regularly come across schools whose average staffing costs have risen to £8,000 per person, per year.

The payment of annual increments to teachers, often rewarding time in the job rather than actual performance of it, has a crucial bearing on staffing costs. Perhaps spot salaries with additional remuneration for



Salisbury: new moves

specific projects has to be the harsher way for the future.

What also is the future for national pay agreements? Health authorities have repeatedly demonstrated the tensions surrounding national agreements which take no account of the employer's ability to pay.

At the moment we are just managing these tensions, but for how long? What is certain is that in order to sustain development and to keep equipment levels up to date, many schools will have to move more into the financial "self-help" world. It will be more commercial, will entail new skills, new flexibilities and the ability to think up imaginative schemes which will bring mutual benefits and generate new profit.

Let us hope a future government will see the sense of investing properly in education. Everyone says a problem is not solved by throwing money at it — 1, for one wouldn't mind giving this solution a try!

● The author is the head of Garibaldi School, Mansfield.



Magnus and Guy Johnston are both former King's College choristers and both study at Chetham's School, Manchester

Has music teaching lost the score?

Susan Elkin wonders

how musically talented children will get the breaks they deserve

might have been arranged. Far chance of that today.

As I write, there is a musical furor in Kent. Kent Music School (KMS) is the 49-year-old wing of Kent County Council which organises subsidised lessons for 15,000 children (and families), runs 24 local music centres and county orchestras and choirs. It also employs 450 people. KMS is threatened by a 30 per cent budget cut, which could lead to closure.

Michael Wearne, the director of KMS, says: "We are not the first to have to fight our corner. In some counties instrumental music teaching has already gone and in several others it is either under threat or soon will be. What is happening in Kent is just part of a trend."

The point is, of course, that adult musicians do not just happen fully formed. They can play as they do only because of decades of teaching, nurturing and encouragement throughout childhood. Musical

talent is no respecter of birth or social class. Johannes Brahms, the centenary of whose death falls this year, was born into poor family circumstances. What an unimaginable loss it would have been had teachers and patrons not discovered him.

And even those children, like the Johnstons, who have been taught largely outside the maintained-sector system need support.

Guy Johnston — even more accomplished than Rupert, who is a student at Guildhall School of Music, or Magnus, who is aiming for Royal Northern College of Music — has been offered a place to study cello under Colin Carr at the New England Conservatory in Boston in two years' time. The cost is £24,000 a year for three years.

How many families, whatever sacrifices they make, can afford that sort of money? Yet there is no grant assistance available for overseas study. The only hope is some sort of sponsorship offer.

Music education is in a muddle. We now seem to deny it altogether to the least well-off and penalise heavily those families who are a little better-off. Only the very wealthy can easily afford music lessons.

If we continue music soon really will

become the exclusive province of a tiny elite.

Music is worth investing in. To destroy by

default systems for developing it in young

people from all backgrounds is a dreadful

act of cultural vandalism.

Bet on the young, not the Lottery

Kevin Berry on the role of theatre in learning

FUNDING for the performing arts is nothing more than a lottery, and I ask no forgiveness for the pun. Reductions from the Arts Council and hard-pressed local authorities are leading to an even greater scramble for cash. Is there a theatre or touring company in the country that is not formulating a National Lottery application?

I am not altogether comfortable with the concept of subsidised theatre and the idea of money handed over simply because it has been asked for. But at the same time I am not that much of an enthusiast for cold-blooded market forces. I just have to see a theatre with empty seats; if I see an excellent play in a half-empty theatre, and then on my way home see bored teenagers hanging around the bus station, I feel angry. I have rarely seen youngsters who are not with their parents or part of a school party. Theatres are still the preserve of the middle class, although some do have excellent outreach programmes.

Some months ago I attended a meeting of theatre administrators and they were all bemoaning cuts in funding. It was as if arts funding is accepted as a right, with just the amount to be argued over and no thought of theatres doing something for the cash. The discussion got round to Theatre in Education funding and the need to subsidise children's tickets. "Children have a right to go to the theatre!" someone yelled. Shouts of agreement were lost in an angry condemnation of the lottery and the greed it has encouraged.

THAT phrase "Children have a right to go to the theatre" has been rattling round my brain ever since. Yes, they should have the right, and there is a way to ensure that they have it. □ All children under 16 to have free admission to any theatre for any show, with the possible exception of pop concerts and pantomimes. Free admission to be also available to drama students and students of English literature, and anyone in full-time education who has a legitimate academic interest in seeing a show — a student of French wanting to see *Tartuffe*, for instance. □ Financing to come from the lottery coffers, and it should be the only lottery funding that theatres are allowed.

□ Scrap the present application system. Then, at the end of each month, a theatre sends in a breakdown of its box-office figures. Theatres are paid the full amount for seats "given" to children, with a percentage going to the touring company. They will then have the cash to pay for new equipment and buildings. No children equals no cash.

So, we create a new audience, we stimulate an interest in theatre among teenagers. I wonder how many youngsters have gone on a school trip to see the Shakespeare they are studying, seen an ad for an interesting show and then glanced at the prices and thought: "Blow that — it's a week's pocket money!"

The pressure will be on theatres to make themselves known to youngsters and to provide a welcome. Not too difficult, or is it?

■ The author is a theatre critic



NEW OPPORTUNITIES AT ST CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL

Twenty Assisted Places now available for September 1997

St Christopher has been awarded twenty places under the Assisted Places Scheme which provides for some able children from less well-off families to attend independent schools with broad educational opportunities, good exam results and strong sixth forms. The places are for children aged 9, 11, 13 and also at age 16 for direct entry to A level courses. No fees are payable for children from families with low incomes, with a sliding scale of contribution applying as parental income increases up to £26,000. The Assisted Places Scheme covers only day fees in a limited number of cases. Application should be made by 13 May to ensure consideration.

New technology Wing now open; new Sixth Form Centre opens September 1997

Before and after school care for younger children now available

Bus from North London now running; Cambridge bus planned

Open Days: Wednesday 23 April 7.15pm for 7.30pm
Friday 9 May 1.45pm for 2.00pm

We are now interviewing for our 82nd annual intake of boys and girls into the three departments:

The Montessori Nursery School (for term children turn 3 years old)

The Junior School (for 9 year olds)

The Senior School (for 11 and 13 year olds and for Sixth Form entry)

St Christopher is a school with a rich mainstream curriculum but also a distinctive informal ethos and a purposeful and extensive programme of activities for our 300 day pupils and 160 boarders. If you are interested in the school for your child please send for an information pack (including our new prospectus, fees and exam results), and come to one of our open days or contact Susan Mellor (Admissions Secretary) to arrange a personal tour.

ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL

Letchworth, Herts SG6 3JZ

Tel: 01462 679301 Fax: 01462 481578

The School is an Educational Charity which aims to treat all children as individuals and to develop their proper self confidence

TO ADVERTISE CALL
0171 680 6800

THE TIMES FRIDAY APRIL 25 1997

FAX:
0171 782 7899

EDUCATION

POSTS

LEIGHTON PARK SCHOOL
BURSAR AND BUSINESS MANAGER

Salary: £35,000

Successful co-educational day and boarding Quaker school open to all, requires from Summer 1997 an experienced professional to manage and develop all non-academic aspects of the school.

The School

Leighton Park provides broadly based education for 370 boys and girls aged 11-18, about 50% boarding. Its academic standing is shown by membership of Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference.

Located adjacent to Reading University in 60 acres of parkland; £10M recent investment in new facilities.

The Position

A key member of the management team reporting to the Head and Board of Governors.

Responsible for the full business management of the school.

The Leighton Park Trust is a Registered Charity No. 309144

Reading, Berkshire

Qualifications

- * Graduate calibre, probably aged 40-50, and having held a senior post in general management
- * Good communicator with strong skills in team management
- * Computer literate
- * Willing to live on or close to the school campus; a house is available if required.

Further details

These may be obtained from The Head, John Dunston, Leighton Park School, Shiplake Road, Reading, RG2 7DR (Tel: 0118 987 2065; Fax: 0118 986 6959) to whom application should be made by 16 May 1997.

EDUCATION

CORNWALL COUNTY AUDILOGY SERVICE
PERIPATETIC TEACHER OF THE DEAF
ON THE TEACHERS PAY SPINE (POINTS 0-9)
+ FOR SUITABLY QUALIFIED CANDIDATE

Following retirements and some re-organisation, applications are invited from Teachers holding a recognised qualification in the education of the deaf, and a full driving licence, for the post of Peripatetic Teacher of the Deaf based in Hayle in West Cornwall. The post is available from 1 September 1997.

The Cornwall Audiology Service is well established and highly regarded and is involved in many interesting initiatives in the education and assessment of pupils with all types and degrees of hearing impairment. There is also a high quality programme of in-service training and professional development for all staff.

The post will provide an attractive professional opportunity for a Teacher interested in developing or extending teaching and assessment skills with pupils of different ages.

Travel allowance according to JNC Scale. Teachers Pay Spine + 2 SEN points + 1 point for extra responsibilities for a suitably qualified candidate. Further details and application forms from: Mrs Angela Alderman, Head of the County Audiology Service, Educational Audiology Centre, Priory Road, St Austell PL25 5AB. Telephone (text and voice) (01726) 61004/Fax: (01726) 63803.

Interviews: 12 and 13 May 1997.

Closing date: 2 May 1997.



WORKING TOWARDS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Head

St Mary's School, Ascot



Roman Catholic girls' boarding school with outstanding academic results, seeks exceptional candidates for headship in September 1998, following the very successful 16 year tenure of Sister Frances Orchard IBVM.

THE SCHOOL

- ◆ Set in forty four acres of woodland close to Ascot, key motorways and airports, and with excellent facilities.
- ◆ An oversubscribed, full boarding school with a special family ethos and sense of community.

QUALIFICATIONS

- ◆ Graduate, preferably with a successful teaching record and management experience.
- ◆ Committed Roman Catholic in tune with the pastoral and academic requirements of young women.
- ◆ Some financial understanding is desirable. Good communicator with stamina, personality and presence.

For further information contact NBS, 54 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6LX, quoting ref ED703H1/T
Fax 0171 629 2077 Tel 0171 493 2220

Aberdeen • Birmingham • Bristol • City • Edinburgh • Glasgow

Leeds • London • Manchester • Slough • Madrid • Paris

NB Selection - Education



Selection and Search

ISO 9002 Registered

YARM SCHOOL
Stockton-on-Tees

BURSAR

Yarm School is an independent HMC day school. It has 790 pupils. 260 boys aged 4-10 in the Preparatory School & Pre-Prep and 530 aged 11-18 in the Senior School, including Sixth Form girls.

The Governors invite applications for the post of Bursar to succeed Mr J H Wilson FCA who leaves at the end of the Summer Term.

Candidates will be expected to have proven senior experience in finance and administration and should be fully conversant with accounting methods involving information technology.

Further details of the post are available from The Clerk to the Governors, Yarm School, The Friary, Yarm, Stockton-on-Tees, TS15 9EJ.

The closing date for applications is 9th May 1997.

Yarm School is a registered charity for the purpose of providing education. Number 507290

COURSES

WANTED
Sharp-eyed People

After a Chapterhouse training course we hope you will keep in touch

Even up to £12.00 an hour from home, proofreading and editing books. Don't just take our word for it... read what our ex-students say.

Dear Chapterhouse
I started to do the course whilst out of work. Soon after I received my last set of notes I became employed with a publisher and one of my main duties is proofreading our publications to job I gained because of my interest in your course.

Dear Chapterhouse
At long last I am sending you the Closing Assessment to be marked. I really enjoyed doing the course and I now work 3 days a week at a Publishing Co. on a freelance basis. Thank you very much for all your help and expertise.

Dear Chapterhouse
Thank you very much for an outstanding, if somewhat strenuous, copy editing course. I have already managed to get a few freelance jobs with an Oxford Publisher, so I think it was definitely worth the effort.

Full training from professional publishers by correspondence course or by sending

from only £59.00 for a full proofreading course.

For Prospects including lots of success stories from Chapterhouse, 2 Southwark West, EC1W 1JG
Phone (0171) 493483 Fax (0171) 493483

CHAPTERHOUSE
6 Years Successful Training

FETTES COLLEGE
EDINBURGH

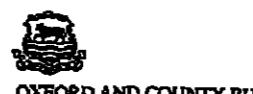
Bursar

The Governors of the Fettes Trust invite applications for the post of Bursar, who will have overall responsibility for the finances, administration and property of the school. The successful applicant will have a proven record of good administration, introduction of business systems, financial management and the control and management of projects. The candidate should be computer literate and used to the preparation of budgets and monitoring the results.

Applications (to be lodged by 9th May 1997) accompanied by C.V. and the names and addresses of two referees, to the Clerk to the Governors of the Fettes Trust, 48 Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3LX (Tel: 0131 220 2345) from whom particulars of the position may be obtained.

BUSINESS COURSES

Secretarial
Travel
Hotel Administration
Public Relations & Advertising
Business Management



OXFORD AND COUNTY BUSINESS COLLEGE

34 St Giles, Oxford, OX1 3LH

Tel: 01865 310100 Fax: 01865 310444

BUSINESS TRAINING IN THE HEART OF OXFORD

COURSES

INTERIOR DESIGN COURSES
By Distance-Learning

Study for a degree or to gain

recognised qualifications

from: Shiree International

Dept. S/1, 33, 1st Street,

Bromley BR1 3JL, UK

Fax: 01732 221244

e-mail: distance@shiree.comwww: www.shiree.com

0800 371 500

Shiree

Aldates

Make £20,000 per year as a Travel Writer

This free Newsletter and prospectus shows you exactly how to become a Freelance Travel Writer.

Tel: 0800 371 500

LANGUAGE COURSES

GERMAN
DAY INTENSIVE COURSES

Dates: 6-30.5.97-27.6/

7-27.7/4.8-8.8.1997

at the German Cultural Centre

GOETHE
INSTITUT
LONDON

50 Princes Gate

(Exhibition Road)

London SW7 2PH

Tel: 0171 541 3451

Fax: 0171 594 0210

Founded 1953

King Edward's School, Witley

Godalming, Surrey

(HMC, Co-Education,

Boarding and Day, 500 pupils)

BURSAR

The Governors of King Edward's School invite applications for the post of Bursar, to be responsible for the finances, business administration and property of the school. Management of the school estate and of domestic affairs is delegated to the Estates and Administrative Bursars, who report to the Bursar.

The successful applicant will have a proven record in financial planning, budgeting and control and will, in particular, be required to oversee the selection and installation of a new computer system soon after taking up the appointment in September 1997.

Full particulars of the post may be obtained from the Headmaster's Secretary, King Edward's School, Witley, Godalming, GU8 5SG (telephone 01426 68252). Applications by letter with full c.v. and the names of two referees should be addressed to The Secretary to the Chairman at the school. Closing date for applications is 12th May.

BUSINESS COURSES

John O'Groats

The Electronic

Campus at

The University

you can study at

home, in your

time and at your

pace, wherever you

live in Britain. And,

uniquely, you'll still enjoy

close, interactive links with

students and course leaders.

Courses starting May '97:

• MBA Marketing

• MBA Total Quality Management

• MSC Quality Management

• MSC Computer Aided Engineering

• BSC Health Studies

For more information call The Distance

Learning Unit on 0141 846 3822 or

fax: 0141 846 3847.

e-mail: kirk.ramsey@paisley.ac.uk

UNIVERSITY OF PAISLEY

Thinking of doing an MBA?

Then visit the

MBA FAIR

MONDAY 12TH MAY
4.30PM - 8.30PM
IN CENTRAL LONDON

Leading British and continental European business schools will be represented at the Association of MBA's (AMBA) annual MBA Fair. You will be able to discuss your career plans with the schools and collect information on over 80 full time, part-time and distance learning MBA courses.

Sponsored by Barclays and NatWest banks.

ADMISSION IS FREE -

BUT BY PRE-REGISTRATION ONLY

For further details and to register call the NatWest registration service free on,

Tel: 0800 854 369

8.00am - 8.00pm Monday - Friday,
or 9.00 - 6.00 Saturday

BRASENOSE COLLEGE
OXFORD

Fixed-Term Teaching Fellowship in Law

The College wishes to appoint a Supplementary Teaching Fellow in Law with effect from 1st October 1997, or as soon as possible thereafter. The duties and rewards of the post have been tailored to suit someone with approximately half-time commitments elsewhere. The person appointed will be expected to teach up to six hours per week for the College during full term and to play an active part in the organisation and development of legal studies in the College. The appointment will be for a fixed period of three years, potentially renewable for a further two years. The College requires teaching in a range of subjects, but has a particular need for teaching in European Community Law.

Applications should be sent to the Senior Tutor, Brasenose College, Oxford OX1 4AJ, by Friday 16 May 1997. Applicants should ask three referees to send confidential references direct to the Senior Tutor by the same date. Further particulars, including details of stipend and other benefits, may be obtained from the College Secretary (tel: 01865 277829). We would welcome approaches from firms or organisations which might be interested in half-time commitment of suitably qualified and experienced lawyers.

The College is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

EDUCATION

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Michael Calvin on a testing return to Imola for Frank Williams

Romantic driven by willpower

FRANK WILLIAMS comes as close as he dares to regarding Imola as his spiritual home. He feeds off the fervour of the Ferrari fans, finds solace in the humanity of the occasion. Yet, at the San Marino Grand Prix this weekend, he will be treated like a celebrity defendant. It will be a distasteful experience, the ultimate irony in a life that is a mass of contradictions.

The owner of Formula One's principal team is a sensitive man, though notorious for his ruthlessness. By nature an impulsive character, he has learnt to suppress emotion. His agile brain, trapped in a paralysed body, appreciates the dichotomy between his romantic racer's instincts and his manipulative inclinations as the most astute of dealmakers.

Those inconsistencies can be distilled into two portraits, to which one's eyes are irresistibly drawn in his light, airy office at the team's factory in Grove, in the Oxfordshire countryside. The first on a wall to the right of his large, specially-adapted desk, is an almost ethereal sketch of Ayrton Senna. He is depicted looking down on the Williams-Renault FW16, the car in which he lost his life at Imola in 1994.

The second, enclosed in a silver frame, is an unremarkable photograph of Senna driving the car. It is a mundane motor racing image, but all the more affecting because of that. Williams invested much, perhaps too much, of himself in Senna, and though he is too self-contained to admit it, the suspicion remains that his loss in his car, remains an open wound.

Weakness has been anathema to Williams since the accident in a hire car, returning to Nice airport from a test session in 1986, that consigned him to a wheelchair. Occasionally his piercing green eyes, which are hooded and red-rimmed, betray the pain, but he detaches himself from his plight, which would have overwhelmed lesser men.

"I had a love of speed and couldn't control it," he says, referring with brutal simplicity to his accident. "That's why I'm like this." So, in the context of his response to his disability, the trauma of the trial of Williams and five others, on manslaughter charges arising from Senna's death, is mar-

'I had a love of speed and couldn't control it'



Face value: Williams's strength of character has helped him to cope with adversity

"I can't say that, when I first met Jacques, I told myself: 'Wow, this guy has got it.' I couldn't say, 12 months ago: 'Yes, this guy is a world champion.' But he has stepped up a gear this winter. What really impresses me is the way he just turns up and whacks in the fastest time. He delivers immediately. I see a driver totally in control of himself and his car."

"He is very young and very interesting. He views things so differently from me — it's a generational thing — but I recognise that need to win. That fire in his belly. He has got all the attributes of a champion. He is self-disci-

plined, open-minded, tough and intelligent."

Villeneuve is also unafraid to speak his mind, referring last week to the proposed rule changes for 1998 as "a joke". Williams is more circumspect — "whatever regulations they have for us, we'll be there" — but stresses the need for the sport to evolve. He views complacency as a cardinal sin.

"Heaven knows what shocks are awaiting us," he said, looking ahead to the European Formula One season. "I don't subscribe to the view that we [Williams] are inevitably superior. This is an incredibly competitive busi-

ness and I see the writing on the wall in thick, blood-red letters. Ferrari took pole at Imola last year and, with the greatest respect to Eddie Irvine, had Michael Schumacher been in his car in the last race at Buenos Aires, he would have beaten Jacques."

Another contradiction. The merest hint of seduction is seductive. So, when will Frank Williams lose his love for Formula One? "When the coffin lid closes," he answered.

"Then they can take me to Silverstone, find some consecrated ground near Abbey Curve, and stick me in there. I'll be as happy as Larry."

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
Last week's Refresher on discarding showed how important it is for a defender to keep the same number of cards as dummy in any long suit. Equally important, although more difficult to do, is to keep parity with declarer's long suit.

Dealer South

♦ Q 9
♦ A 9 5 4 3 2
♦ 6
♦ 9 7 5
♦ J 10 8
♦ K 9 7
♦ 9 8 7 4
♦ 6 3 2
♦ A K 7 4
♦ 7
♦ A K Q J 10 3
♦ 9 4

East-West game

W N E S
Pass 2 H Pass 2 S
Pass 3 H Pass 4 NT
Pass 5 D Pass 6 D

Contract: Six Diamonds by South. Lead: nine of diamonds

South has the strength to open Two Clubs, but for space considerations it is better to open an Acol Two Diamonds if that bid is available. The sequence Two Clubs — Two Diamonds — Three Diamonds pushes the auction uncomfortably high. It is correct for North to bid Two Hearts. A reasonable suit is all you need to respond with two of a major to Two Clubs or Two Diamonds. You need a better hand to respond at a three level.

On a non-trump lead declarer could have ruffed a spade on the dummy, but on the actual lead he had no choice but to run his long suit and hope the

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Continuing deadlock

For the fourth game of his match last year against IBM's Deep Blue computer, Kasparov sought to dynamite his way through the black defences, sacrificing rook for bishop. Nevertheless, Deep Blue's renewed display of excellence in calculation of precise tactical variations once again thwarted Kasparov's efforts to land a direct hit. The score was now two points each, with just two games to go. Last Saturday (April 19), I gave the fifth game, in which Kasparov finally broke the deadlock to move one game ahead. On Monday I will give the sixth and final game of the Man v Machine encounter of last year and also make my predictions for their forthcoming clash, starting on May 3 in New York.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Deep Blue
Philadelphia, 1996

semi-Slav Defence

1 N13 d5
2 d4 c5
3 c2 e5
4 Nfd2 Nf6
5 e3 Nbd7
6 Bf4 Bf5
7 e4 Nc6
8 Nc4 d4
9 Bg4 0-0
10 0-0 h6
11 Bc2 e5
12 Re1 exd4
13 Cxd4 Bc5
14 Qc3 a5
15 a3 Nf6
16 Bb3 Bxe3
17 Rxe3

18 Ne5 Re8
19 Raa1 Bg6
20 d4 Cc8
21 h3 h5
22 Bc4 bxc4
23 Nxc4 Pxe3
24 Pxe3 Nxe3
25 Re4 Nf5
26 Rxc4 Nd5
27 Qd5 Qd7
28 Rxe3 Nf6
29 Qd4 Rf8
30 Re4 Rf7
31 Kh1 Qc7
32 Qf2 Qb8
33 Bg4 c5
34 Bc6 c4
35 Rxc4 Nf3
36 Bf3 Nd3
37 Qh4 Qb2
38 Qg3 Qxa3
39 Rf7 Qb8
40 Ra7 Ne5
41 Rxe5 Qf7
42 Rxe5 b6
43 Cxe5 Re8
44 Qf4 Qf6
45 Bf5 Rf8
46 Bg6+ Kf8
47 Qc7 Qd4
48 Kh2 Rf8
49 Bf5 Rf6
50 Bg5 Rf8
51 Bf5 Rf6
52 Bg6+ Kf8
53 Qc7 Qd4
54 Kh2 Rf8
55 Bf5 Rf6
56 Bg6+ Kf8
57 Qc7 Qd4
58 Kh2 Rf8
59 Bf5 Rf6
60 Bg6+ Kf8
61 Qc7 Qd4
62 Kh2 Rf8
63 Bf5 Rf6
64 Bg6+ Kf8
65 Qc7 Qd4
66 Kh2 Rf8
67 Bf5 Rf6
68 Bg6+ Kf8
69 Qc7 Qd4
70 Kh2 Rf8
71 Bf5 Rf6
72 Bg6+ Kf8
73 Qc7 Qd4
74 Kh2 Rf8
75 Bf5 Rf6
76 Bg6+ Kf8
77 Qc7 Qd4
78 Kh2 Rf8
79 Bf5 Rf6
80 Bg6+ Kf8
81 Qc7 Qd4
82 Kh2 Rf8
83 Bf5 Rf6
84 Bg6+ Kf8
85 Qc7 Qd4
86 Kh2 Rf8
87 Bf5 Rf6
88 Bg6+ Kf8
89 Qc7 Qd4
90 Kh2 Rf8
91 Bf5 Rf6
92 Bg6+ Kf8
93 Qc7 Qd4
94 Kh2 Rf8
95 Bf5 Rf6
96 Bg6+ Kf8
97 Qc7 Qd4
98 Kh2 Rf8
99 Bf5 Rf6
100 Bg6+ Kf8
101 Qc7 Qd4
102 Kh2 Rf8
103 Bf5 Rf6
104 Bg6+ Kf8
105 Qc7 Qd4
106 Kh2 Rf8
107 Bf5 Rf6
108 Bg6+ Kf8
109 Qc7 Qd4
110 Kh2 Rf8
111 Bf5 Rf6
112 Bg6+ Kf8
113 Qc7 Qd4
114 Kh2 Rf8
115 Bf5 Rf6
116 Bg6+ Kf8
117 Qc7 Qd4
118 Kh2 Rf8
119 Bf5 Rf6
120 Bg6+ Kf8
121 Qc7 Qd4
122 Kh2 Rf8
123 Bf5 Rf6
124 Bg6+ Kf8
125 Qc7 Qd4
126 Kh2 Rf8
127 Bf5 Rf6
128 Bg6+ Kf8
129 Qc7 Qd4
130 Kh2 Rf8
131 Bf5 Rf6
132 Bg6+ Kf8
133 Qc7 Qd4
134 Kh2 Rf8
135 Bf5 Rf6
136 Bg6+ Kf8
137 Qc7 Qd4
138 Kh2 Rf8
139 Bf5 Rf6
140 Bg6+ Kf8
141 Qc7 Qd4
142 Kh2 Rf8
143 Bf5 Rf6
144 Bg6+ Kf8
145 Qc7 Qd4
146 Kh2 Rf8
147 Bf5 Rf6
148 Bg6+ Kf8
149 Qc7 Qd4
150 Kh2 Rf8
151 Bf5 Rf6
152 Bg6+ Kf8
153 Qc7 Qd4
154 Kh2 Rf8
155 Bf5 Rf6
156 Bg6+ Kf8
157 Qc7 Qd4
158 Kh2 Rf8
159 Bf5 Rf6
160 Bg6+ Kf8
161 Qc7 Qd4
162 Kh2 Rf8
163 Bf5 Rf6
164 Bg6+ Kf8
165 Qc7 Qd4
166 Kh2 Rf8
167 Bf5 Rf6
168 Bg6+ Kf8
169 Qc7 Qd4
170 Kh2 Rf8
171 Bf5 Rf6
172 Bg6+ Kf8
173 Qc7 Qd4
174 Kh2 Rf8
175 Bf5 Rf6
176 Bg6+ Kf8
177 Qc7 Qd4
178 Kh2 Rf8
179 Bf5 Rf6
180 Bg6+ Kf8
181 Qc7 Qd4
182 Kh2 Rf8
183 Bf5 Rf6
184 Bg6+ Kf8
185 Qc7 Qd4
186 Kh2 Rf8
187 Bf5 Rf6
188 Bg6+ Kf8
189 Qc7 Qd4
190 Kh2 Rf8
191 Bf5 Rf6
192 Bg6+ Kf8
193 Qc7 Qd4
194 Kh2 Rf8
195 Bf5 Rf6
196 Bg6+ Kf8
197 Qc7 Qd4
198 Kh2 Rf8
199 Bf5 Rf6
200 Bg6+ Kf8
201 Qc7 Qd4
202 Kh2 Rf8
203 Bf5 Rf6
204 Bg6+ Kf8
205 Qc7 Qd4
206 Kh2 Rf8
207 Bf5 Rf6
208 Bg6+ Kf8
209 Qc7 Qd4
210 Kh2 Rf8
211 Bf5 Rf6
212 Bg6+ Kf8
213 Qc7 Qd4
214 Kh2 Rf8
215 Bf5 Rf6
216 Bg6+ Kf8
217 Qc7 Qd4
218 Kh2 Rf8
219 Bf5 Rf6
220 Bg6+ Kf8
221 Qc7 Qd4
222 Kh2 Rf8
223 Bf5 Rf6
224 Bg6+ Kf8
225 Qc7 Qd4
226 Kh2 Rf8
227 Bf5 Rf6
228 Bg6+ Kf8
229 Qc7 Qd4
230 Kh2 Rf8
231 Bf5 Rf6
232 Bg6+ Kf8
233 Qc7 Qd4
234 Kh2 Rf8
235 Bf5 Rf6
236 Bg6+ Kf8
237 Qc7 Qd4
238 Kh2 Rf8
239 Bf5 Rf6
240 Bg6+ Kf8
241 Qc7 Qd4
242 Kh2 Rf8
243 Bf5 Rf6
244 Bg6+ Kf8
245 Qc7 Qd4
246 Kh2 Rf8
247 Bf5 Rf6
248 Bg6+ Kf8
249 Qc7 Qd4
250 Kh2 Rf8
251 Bf5 Rf6
252 Bg6+ Kf8
253 Qc7 Qd4
254 Kh2 Rf8
255 Bf5 Rf6
256 Bg6+ Kf8
257 Qc7 Qd4
258 Kh2 Rf8
259 Bf5 Rf6
260 Bg6+ Kf8
261 Qc7 Qd4
262 Kh2 Rf8
263 Bf5 Rf6
264 Bg6+ Kf8
265 Qc7 Qd4
266 Kh2 Rf8
267 Bf5 Rf6
268 Bg6+ Kf8
269 Qc7 Qd4
270 Kh2 Rf8
271 Bf5 Rf6
272 Bg6+ Kf8
273 Qc7 Qd4
274 Kh2 Rf8
275 Bf5 Rf6
276 Bg6+ Kf8
277 Qc7 Qd4
278 Kh2 Rf8
279 Bf5 Rf6
280 Bg6+ Kf8
281 Qc7 Qd4
282 Kh2 Rf8
283 Bf5 Rf6
284 Bg6+ Kf8
285 Qc7 Qd4
286 Kh2 Rf8
287 Bf5 Rf6
288 Bg6+ Kf8
289 Qc7 Qd4
290 Kh2 Rf8
291 Bf5 Rf6
292 Bg6+ Kf8
293 Qc7 Qd4
294 Kh2 Rf8
295 Bf5 Rf6
296 Bg6+ Kf8
297 Qc7 Qd4
298 Kh2 Rf8
299 Bf5 Rf6
300 Bg6+ Kf8
301 Qc7 Qd4
302 Kh2 Rf8
303 Bf5 Rf6
304 Bg6+ Kf8
305 Qc7 Qd4
306 Kh2 Rf8
307 Bf5 Rf6
308 Bg6+ Kf8
309 Qc7 Qd4
310 Kh2 Rf8
311 Bf5 Rf6
312 Bg6+ Kf8
313 Qc7 Qd4
314 Kh2 Rf8
315 Bf5 Rf6
316 Bg6+ Kf8
317 Qc7 Qd4
318 Kh2 Rf8
319 Bf5 Rf6
320 Bg6+ Kf8
321 Qc7 Qd4
322 Kh2 Rf8
323 Bf5 Rf6
324 Bg6+ Kf8
325 Qc7 Qd4
326 Kh2 Rf8
327 Bf5 Rf6
328 Bg6+ Kf8
329 Qc7 Qd4
330 Kh2 Rf8
331 Bf5 Rf6
332 Bg6+ Kf8
333 Qc7 Qd4
334 Kh2 Rf8
335 Bf5 Rf6
336 Bg6+ Kf8
337 Qc7 Qd4
338 Kh2 Rf8
339 Bf5 Rf6
340 Bg6+ Kf8
341 Qc7 Qd4
342 Kh2 Rf8
343 Bf5 Rf6
344 Bg6+ Kf8
345 Qc7 Qd4
346 Kh2 Rf8
347 Bf5 Rf6
348 Bg6+ Kf8
349 Qc7 Qd4
350 Kh2 Rf8
351 Bf5 Rf6
352 Bg6+ Kf8
353 Qc7 Qd4
354 Kh2 Rf8
355 Bf5 Rf6
356 Bg6+ Kf8
357 Qc7 Qd4
358 Kh2 Rf8
359 Bf5 Rf6
360 Bg6+ Kf8
361 Qc7 Qd4
362 Kh2 Rf8
363 Bf5 Rf6
364 Bg6+ Kf8
365 Qc7 Qd4
366 Kh2 Rf8
367 Bf5 Rf6
368 Bg6+ Kf8
369 Qc7 Qd4
370 Kh2 Rf8
371 Bf5 Rf6
372 Bg6+ Kf8
373 Qc7 Qd4
374 Kh2 Rf8
375 Bf5 Rf6
376 Bg6+ Kf8
377 Qc7 Qd4
378 Kh2 Rf8
379 Bf5 Rf6
380 Bg6+ Kf8
381 Qc7 Qd4
382 Kh2 Rf8
383 Bf5 Rf6
384 Bg6+ Kf8
385 Qc7 Qd4
386 Kh2 Rf8
387 Bf5 Rf6
388 Bg6+ Kf8
389 Qc7 Qd4
390 Kh2 Rf8
391 Bf5 Rf6
392 Bg6+ Kf8
393 Qc7 Qd4
394 Kh2 Rf8
395 Bf5 Rf6
396 Bg6+ Kf8
397 Qc7 Qd4
398 Kh2 Rf8
399 Bf5 Rf6
400 Bg6+ Kf8
401 Qc7 Qd4
402 Kh2 Rf8
403 Bf5 Rf6
404 Bg6+ Kf8
405 Qc7 Qd4
406 Kh2 Rf8
407 Bf5 Rf6
408 Bg6+ Kf8
409 Qc7 Qd4
410 Kh2 Rf8
411 Bf5 Rf6
412 Bg6+ Kf8
413 Qc7 Qd4
414 Kh2 Rf8
415 Bf5 Rf6
416 Bg6+ Kf8
417 Qc7 Qd4
418 Kh2 Rf8
419 Bf5 Rf6
420 Bg6+ Kf8
421 Qc7 Qd4
422 Kh2 Rf8
423 Bf5 Rf6
424 Bg6+ Kf8
425 Qc7 Qd4
426 Kh2 Rf8
427 Bf5 Rf6
428 Bg6+ Kf8
429 Qc7 Qd4
430 Kh2 Rf8
431 Bf5 Rf6
432 Bg6+ Kf8
433 Qc7 Qd4
434 Kh2 Rf8
435 Bf5 Rf6
436 Bg6+ Kf8
437 Qc7 Qd4
438 Kh2 Rf8
439 Bf5 Rf6
440 Bg6+ Kf8
441 Qc7 Qd4
442 Kh2 Rf8
443 Bf5 Rf6
444 Bg6+ Kf8
445 Qc7 Qd4
446 Kh2 Rf8
447 Bf5 Rf6
448 Bg6+ Kf8
449 Qc7 Qd4
450 Kh2 Rf8
451 Bf5 Rf6
452 Bg6+ Kf8
453 Qc7 Qd4
454 Kh2 Rf8
455 Bf5 Rf6
456 Bg6+ Kf8
457 Qc7 Qd4
458 Kh2 Rf8
459 Bf5 Rf6
460 Bg6+ Kf8
461 Qc7 Qd4
462 Kh2 Rf8
463 Bf5 Rf6
464 Bg6+ Kf8
465 Qc7 Qd4
466 Kh2 Rf8
467 Bf5 Rf6
468 B

RACING: SEAN CONNERY-OWNED CHASER GIVES EXHILARATING DISPLAY IN CROSS-COUNTRY RACE

Risk Of Thunder licensed to thrill

Andrew Longmore on a Punchestown chase that fosters its own folklore

Trust the Irish to write a lyrical poem about it. "With no time to reflect if your seat is correct. Riding theories can burst like a bubble. Just ram home your feet and forget your right seat. When you're riding the Punchestown Double."

Like Becher's Brook, the Punchestown Double fosters its own folklore. Jumping it is a rite of passage for all aspiring young riders, besides providing a guarantee of a lifetime's tall stories and a few free drinks on a quiet night at the local.

Legend has it that a horse owned by the Baron de Roebeck took one look at the much-vaunted Double and jumped clean over in one stride. Lesser animals have to negotiate their way as best they can, fiddling a stride here, sliding out on their back legs in an undignified scramble only wizened old hunters would countenance.

After a relentless gallop to victory yesterday, Risk Of Thunder is writing his own chapter about the race called the Quinns of Ballyglass Steeplechase, but known far and wide simply as the La Touche. That he is owned by the original 007 himself, Sean Connery, only adds to the lustre of story.

Connery was unable to be at Punchestown yesterday, but his purchase of Risk Of Thunder with the help of the ubiquitous P. McManus reflects an old-fashioned love of racing and a passion for a challenge. Had 007 been a jockey, he would have tackled the La Touche, probably in

In Ireland, the La Touche is

bow tie and dinner jacket and smoking a cigar.

In his absence, Enda Bolger did a fair impression of an armchair ride. It helps, he said, that he knows his way around the 33 fences.

There are so many twists and turns, you need a compass," he said. "But it helps that I have been riding round here for 15 years." For the last three, he has ridden Risk Of Thunder to victory with an increasing degree of comfort.

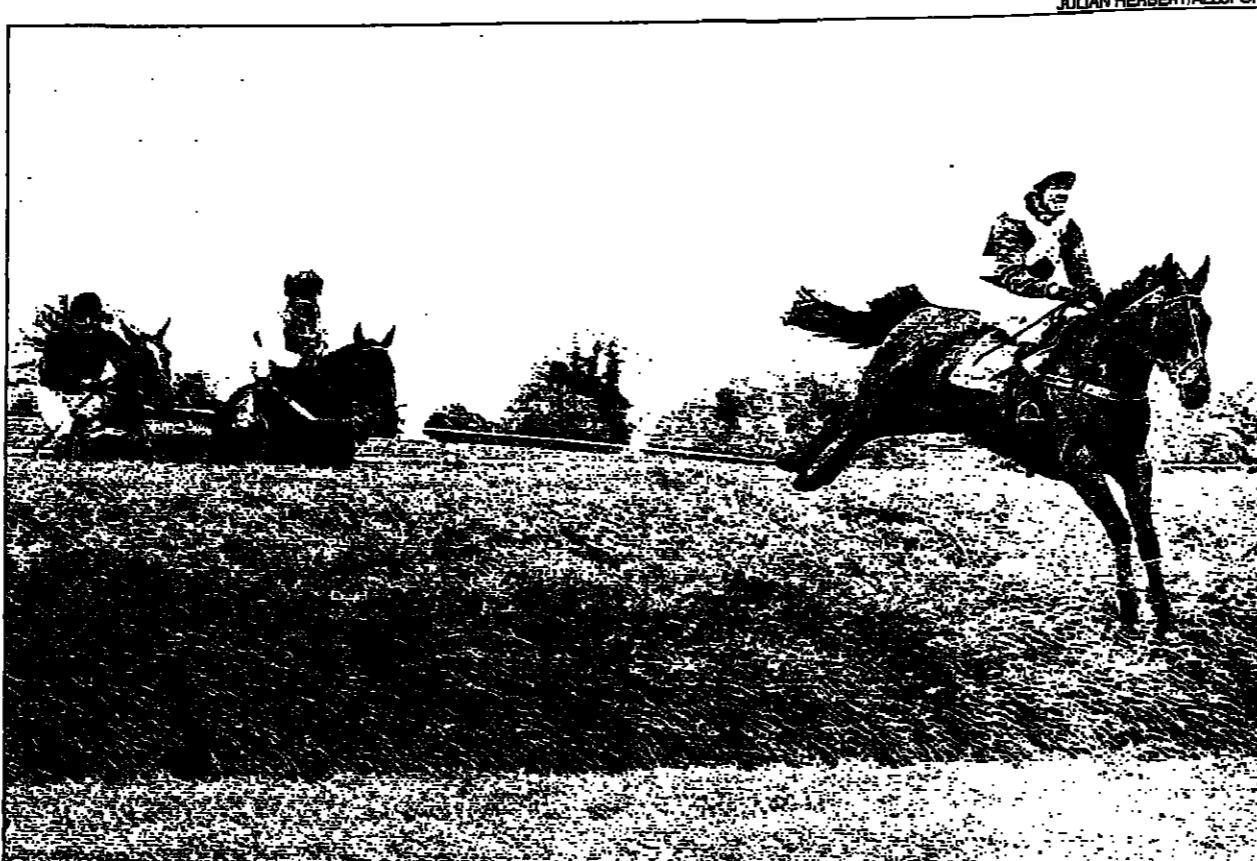
Yesterday, the margin between him and Digacre was that the race was 15 lengths, but the race was all but a race from home. Risk Of Thunder produced such a prodigious leap over Ruby Walsh, the imitation bank built two years ago in front of the stands, that cheers turned to gasps. No bank is supposed to be treated with such disdain.

"I've never known a horse to jump like that," Bolger said.

The enthusiasm and gift he has for these fences is extraordinary. "He's electric. You would have to ride him to explain, but it's just a great feeling to be riding him and it's great for the race because we need runners for this race." The new cross-country course at Cheltenham has been modelled on Punchestown. But the race tucked away in November has not yet been fully accepted in England. "Donkey derby" it was christened after the inaugural running two years ago, an affront to the purity of National Hunt racing and a danger to horse and rider.

Connery was unable to be at Punchestown yesterday, but his purchase of Risk Of Thunder with the help of the ubiquitous P. McManus reflects an old-fashioned love of racing and a passion for a challenge. Had 007 been a jockey, he would have tackled the La Touche, probably in

In Ireland, the La Touche is



Risk Of Thunder, ridden by Bolger, clears the bank on his way to an impressive victory at Punchestown yesterday

regarded as rather more than a wacky sideshow. This is the heart of National Hunt racing and rightly there is more than a doff of the cap to Percy La Touche, a banker who was born and raised locally, who bought up all the small farms at Punchestown and preserved them for jumping. Before La Touche, the race was run over the farmers' lands, through ditches, over walls and hedges. Something of that spirit remains today.

The La Touche, which cele-

brated its 200th anniversary three years ago, is the second race on the final day of the biggest National Hunt festival in Ireland. It is the race many here regard as the highlight of the whole meeting. Not many jumps have a poem all to themselves.

A few more displays like yesterday and Risk Of Thunder will be immortalised in rhyming verse himself. The eight-year-old is beginning to capture the imagination of the Irish people in much the way

Danoli has on a wider scale. "On an ordinary park course, he is very ordinary. But show him the banks and he improves three stone," Bolger added. "He's just an amazing horse."

At the Double Bank, taken both ways, uphill first and downhill second, Risk Of Thunder skipped onto the top of the six-foot bank and was away before the rest had found their feet.

It was quite a spectacle as the uncertain tall-enders skid-

ded off the top like skiers out of the starting gate, and jockeys shut their eyes and hung on for dear life.

The next target for Risk Of Thunder is the Pardubice, the great race run in the Czech Republic every October. That too has a ferocious reputation and a wealth of legend attached to it, which will not frighten horse or jockey one iota. As the poem says: "Ram home your fear and forget your right seat. When you're jumping the Punchestown Double".

It was quite a spectacle as the uncertain tall-enders skid-

SANDOWN PARK

THUNDERER

2.05 Daunting Lady 3.40 Shadriwan
2.35 Harry Wolton 4.10 ALKALAWA (nappy)
3.10 First Island 4.45 Alkalalai (nappy)

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.35 Komi, 3.10 First Island.

4.45 ALCALALAI (nappy).

GOING: GOOD TO RIM DRAW: 5F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS TOE JACKPOT MEETING

2.05 ALBERT MEDIAM AUCTION MAIDEN

FILLIES STAKES (2-Y-O: 53,556; 50 (15 runners))

101 (13) 0 AFTER DAWN 14 (One Over The Eight) Mrs P. Dohfield 8-11 - J. Quinn 102 (15) 1 BLARNEY PARK (Damer Park Racing Club) D. Coyer 8-11 - K. Fallon 103 (16) 2 DAUNTING LADY (7) D. H. Hennan 8-11 - P. Eddeley 104 (17) 3 FAST TEMPER (Mrs M. P. McManus) P. Falvey 8-11 - T. Sprake 105 (18) 4 HAMMER (Mrs M. P. McManus) (T) J. Hines 8-11 - P. Eddeley 106 (19) 5 FLEET ADO 13 (D. H. Dohfield) 8-11 - S. Dronne 107 (20) 6 ALMA'S PRIDE (Mrs G. M. Walsh) 8-11 - R. Hughes 108 (21) 7 PATSY CULSYTH (Patsy Culsyth Racing) M. Johnson 8-11 - J. Weese 109 (22) 8 D. P. COOK & J. J. COOK 8-11 - D. Cook 110 (23) 9 D. ALKALALAI (Mrs T. Whelan) 8-11 - M. Roberts 111 (24) 10 SILENT PRIDE (Mrs D. H. M. Upton) 8-11 - B. Doyle 112 (25) 11 SUN IN THE MORNING (Mrs D. H. M. Upton) 8-11 - J. Field 113 (26) 12 TUNDRA (Mrs K. McAlister) 8-11 - M. J. Kinnane 114 (27) 13 UNIVERSAL LADY (Universal Conference) 8-11 - J. Quinn 115 (28) 14 MIST HUT (Mrs D. H. M. Upton) 8-11 - J. Quinn BETTING: 1-11 Rovers, 2-11 1st Choice, 3-11 2nd Choice, 4-11 3rd Choice, 5-11 4th Choice, 6-11 5th Choice, 7-11 6th Choice, 8-11 7th Choice, 9-11 8th Choice, 10-11 9th Choice, 11-11 10th Choice, 12-11 11th Choice, 13-11 12th Choice, 14-11 13th Choice, 15-11 14th Choice, 16-11 15th Choice, 17-11 16th Choice, 18-11 17th Choice, 19-11 20th Choice, 21-11 22nd Choice, 22-11 23rd Choice, 23-11 24th Choice, 24-11 25th Choice, 25-11 26th Choice, 26-11 27th Choice, 27-11 28th Choice, 28-11 29th Choice, 29-11 30th Choice, 30-11 31st Choice, 31-11 32nd Choice, 32-11 33rd Choice, 33-11 34th Choice, 34-11 35th Choice, 35-11 36th Choice, 36-11 37th Choice, 37-11 38th Choice, 38-11 39th Choice, 39-11 40th Choice, 40-11 41st Choice, 41-11 42nd Choice, 42-11 43rd Choice, 43-11 44th Choice, 44-11 45th Choice, 45-11 46th Choice, 46-11 47th Choice, 47-11 48th Choice, 48-11 49th Choice, 49-11 50th Choice, 50-11 51st Choice, 51-11 52nd Choice, 52-11 53rd Choice, 53-11 54th Choice, 54-11 55th Choice, 55-11 56th Choice, 56-11 57th Choice, 57-11 58th Choice, 58-11 59th Choice, 59-11 60th Choice, 60-11 61st Choice, 61-11 62nd Choice, 62-11 63rd Choice, 63-11 64th Choice, 64-11 65th Choice, 65-11 66th Choice, 66-11 67th Choice, 67-11 68th Choice, 68-11 69th Choice, 69-11 70th Choice, 70-11 71st Choice, 71-11 72nd Choice, 72-11 73rd Choice, 73-11 74th Choice, 74-11 75th Choice, 75-11 76th Choice, 76-11 77th Choice, 77-11 78th Choice, 78-11 79th Choice, 79-11 80th Choice, 80-11 81st Choice, 81-11 82nd Choice, 82-11 83rd Choice, 83-11 84th Choice, 84-11 85th Choice, 85-11 86th Choice, 86-11 87th Choice, 87-11 88th Choice, 88-11 89th Choice, 89-11 90th Choice, 90-11 91st Choice, 91-11 92nd Choice, 92-11 93rd Choice, 93-11 94th Choice, 94-11 95th Choice, 95-11 96th Choice, 96-11 97th Choice, 97-11 98th Choice, 98-11 99th Choice, 99-11 100th Choice, 100-11 101st Choice, 101-11 102nd Choice, 102-11 103rd Choice, 103-11 104th Choice, 104-11 105th Choice, 105-11 106th Choice, 106-11 107th Choice, 107-11 108th Choice, 108-11 109th Choice, 109-11 110th Choice, 110-11 111th Choice, 111-11 112th Choice, 112-11 113th Choice, 113-11 114th Choice, 114-11 115th Choice, 115-11 116th Choice, 116-11 117th Choice, 117-11 118th Choice, 118-11 119th Choice, 119-11 120th Choice, 120-11 121st Choice, 121-11 122nd Choice, 122-11 123rd Choice, 123-11 124th Choice, 124-11 125th Choice, 125-11 126th Choice, 126-11 127th Choice, 127-11 128th Choice, 128-11 129th Choice, 129-11 130th Choice, 130-11 131st Choice, 131-11 132nd Choice, 132-11 133rd Choice, 133-11 134th Choice, 134-11 135th Choice, 135-11 136th Choice, 136-11 137th Choice, 137-11 138th Choice, 138-11 139th Choice, 139-11 140th Choice, 140-11 141st Choice, 141-11 142nd Choice, 142-11 143rd Choice, 143-11 144th Choice, 144-11 145th Choice, 145-11 146th Choice, 146-11 147th Choice, 147-11 148th Choice, 148-11 149th Choice, 149-11 150th Choice, 150-11 151st Choice, 151-11 152nd Choice, 152-11 153rd Choice, 153-11 154th Choice, 154-11 155th Choice, 155-11 156th Choice, 156-11 157th Choice, 157-11 158th Choice, 158-11 159th Choice, 159-11 160th Choice, 160-11 161st Choice, 161-11 162nd Choice, 162-11 163rd Choice, 163-11 164th Choice, 164-11 165th Choice, 165-11 166th Choice, 166-11 167th Choice, 167-11 168th Choice, 168-11 169th Choice, 169-11 170th Choice, 170-11 171st Choice, 171-11 172nd Choice, 172-11 173rd Choice, 173-11 174th Choice, 174-11 175th Choice, 175-11 176th Choice, 176-11 177th Choice, 177-11 178th Choice, 178-11 179th Choice, 179-11 180th Choice, 180-11 181st Choice, 181-11 182nd Choice, 182-11 183rd Choice, 183-11 184th Choice, 184-11 185th Choice, 185-11 186th Choice, 186-11 187th Choice, 187-11 188th Choice, 188-11 189th Choice, 189-11 190th Choice, 190-11 191st Choice, 191-11 192nd Choice, 192-11 193rd Choice, 193-11 194th Choice, 194-11 195th Choice, 195-11 196th Choice, 196-11 197th Choice, 197-11 198th Choice, 198-11 199th Choice, 199-11 200th Choice, 200-11 201st Choice, 201-11 202nd Choice, 202-11 203rd Choice, 203-11 204th Choice, 204-11 205th Choice, 205-11 206th Choice, 206-11 207th Choice, 207-11 208th Choice, 208-11 209th Choice, 209-11 210th Choice, 210-11 211st Choice, 211-11 212nd Choice, 212-11 213rd Choice, 213-11 214th Choice, 214-11 215th Choice, 215-11 216th Choice, 216-11 217th Choice, 217-11 218th Choice, 218-11 219th Choice, 219-11 220th Choice, 220-11 221st Choice, 221-11 222nd Choice, 222-11 223rd Choice, 223-11 224th Choice, 224-11 225th Choice, 225-11 226th Choice, 226-11 227th Choice, 227-11 228th Choice, 228-11 229th Choice, 229-11 230th Choice, 230-11 231st Choice, 231-11 232nd Choice, 232-11 233rd Choice, 233-11 234th Choice, 234-11 235th Choice, 235-11 236th Choice, 236-11 237th Choice, 237-11 238th Choice, 238-11 239th Choice, 239-11 240th Choice, 240-11 241st Choice, 241-11 242nd Choice, 242-11 243rd Choice, 243-11 244th Choice, 244-11 245th Choice, 245-11 246th Choice, 246-11 247th Choice, 247-11 248th Choice, 248-11 249th Choice, 249-11 250th Choice, 250-11 251st Choice, 251-11 252nd Choice, 252-11 253rd Choice, 253-11 254th Choice, 254-11 255th Choice, 255-11 256th Choice, 256-11 257th Choice, 257-11 258th Choice, 258-11 259th Choice, 259-11 260th Choice, 260-11 261st Choice, 261-11 262nd Choice, 262-11 263rd Choice, 263-11 264th Choice, 264-11 265th Choice, 265-11 266th Choice, 266-11 267th Choice, 267-11 268th Choice, 268-11 269th Choice, 269-11 270th Choice, 270-11 271st Choice, 271-11 272nd Choice, 272-11 273rd Choice, 273-11 274th Choice, 274-11 275th Choice, 275-11 276th Choice, 276-11 277th Choice, 277-11 278th Choice, 278-11 279th Choice, 279-11 280th Choice, 280-11 281st Choice, 281-11 282nd Choice, 282-11 283rd Choice, 283-11 284th Choice, 284-11 285th Choice, 285-11 286th Choice, 286-11 287th Choice, 287-11 288th Choice, 288-11 289th Choice, 289-11 290th Choice, 290-11 291st Choice, 291-11 292nd Choice, 292-11 293rd Choice, 293-11 294th Choice, 294-11 295th Choice, 295-11 296th Choice, 296-11 297th Choice, 297-11 298th Choice, 298-11 299th Choice, 299-11 300th Choice, 300-11 301st Choice, 301-11 302nd Choice, 302-11 303rd Choice, 303-11 304th Choice, 304-11 305th Choice, 305-11 306th Choice, 306-11 307th Choice, 307-11 308th Choice, 308-11 309th Choice, 309-11 310th Choice, 310-11 311th Choice, 311-11 312th Choice, 312-11 313th Choice, 313-11 314th Choice, 314-11 315th Choice, 315-11 316th Choice, 316-11 317th Choice, 317-11 318th Choice, 318-11 319th Choice, 319-11 320th Choice, 320-11 321st Choice, 321-11 322nd Choice, 322-11 323rd Choice, 323-11 324th Choice, 324-11 325th Choice, 325-11 326th Choice, 326-11 327th Choice, 327-11 328th Choice, 328-11 329th Choice, 329-11 330th Choice, 330-11 331st Choice, 331-11 332nd Choice, 332-11 333rd Choice, 333-11 334th Choice, 334-11 335th Choice, 335-11 336th Choice, 336-11 337th Choice, 337-11 338th Choice, 338-11 339th Choice, 339-11 340

SNOOKER

White's nights of Crucible battles could be at an end

By PHIL YATES

THE Embassy world champion without Jimmy White is like the Open Champion without Jack Nicklaus, but the possibility exists that the player most synonymous with Crucible Theatre heartache will be missing from the event 12 months hence.

White's 10-9 defeat by Anthony Hamilton late on Wednesday, after a gripping first-round tussle, guaranteed his relegation from the game's top 16 a 15-year spell.

Unthinkably, White, six times the runner-up at the championship but never the winner, will be required to negotiate a qualifying match in order to return next year. In addition, he must also qualify for the final stages of all overseas world ranking tournaments.

White's third failure to clear his opening hurdle in 17 visits to the Crucible was a fitting culmination to a season in which he has suffered personal, financial and professional turmoil. While still coming to terms with the death of his brother and, a few months later, his mother, White was declared bankrupt over an inland Revenue debt.

He lost his first 11 outings of the campaign and, after an unexpected defeat at the hands of Dylan Leary at the Regal Welsh Open in January, he slipped to 36th in the provisional standings. Appearances in the quarter-finals of the International Open and the last 16 of the European Open and Thailand Open in recent weeks suggested that his best form of the year could coincide with his arrival in Sheffield, but that did not transpire.

When White artistically constructed a 125 clearance on the

way to leading 6-3, then moved 8-4 ahead, a second-round match against John Parrott beckoned, but Hamilton then outscored him 51-51 in winning the next four frames to level at 8-8.

In the decider, White led 37-13, but in escaping a snooker, he presented Hamilton with a clear opportunity. Capitalising to the full, he constructed a 54 break to earn a top 16 place of his own.

The loser's cheque for £9,450 swelled White's total prize-money for 1996-97 to £68,475. That represents the poorest remuneration that he has received for a season since turning professional after becoming world amateur champion in 1980.

"I'm convinced Jimmy will bounce straight back into the top ten; he's hitting the ball as well as ever; he just needs a bit of self-belief again," Hamilton said, offering words of encouragement. However, it remains to be seen whether White will

return from snooker's lengthy summer recess thinking quite so positively.

Steve Davis, a contemporary of White who is holding back the tide of youth to greater effect, believes that a fitness regime would be of immense benefit for the player with whom he battled for supremacy throughout the 1980s. "Looking at Jimmy, I think that could be a solution," Davis said. "It's helped me enormously and it could do the same for him."

"As you get older, you have to use anything you can to stay up there. There's nothing wrong with his game, his temperament or his approach, so he's got to look at what else there is. Being fit doesn't make you pot more balls, but it makes you feel better."

James Wattana, the No 12 seed, was fully extended before edging past Graeme Dott 10-9. Wattana from Thailand, who compiled a 53 break in the decider to seal victory after Dott had missed a tricky red to a middle pocket, goes forward to face Stephen Lee, the conqueror of Nigel Bond.

Leading 7-4 and 51-0 in the twelfth frame, Wattana was cruising. Dott, 19, the youngest competitor in the final stages of the championship this year, stole it on the blue and forged 8-7 ahead, but, as the finishing line drew closer, he became increasingly prone to unforced errors.

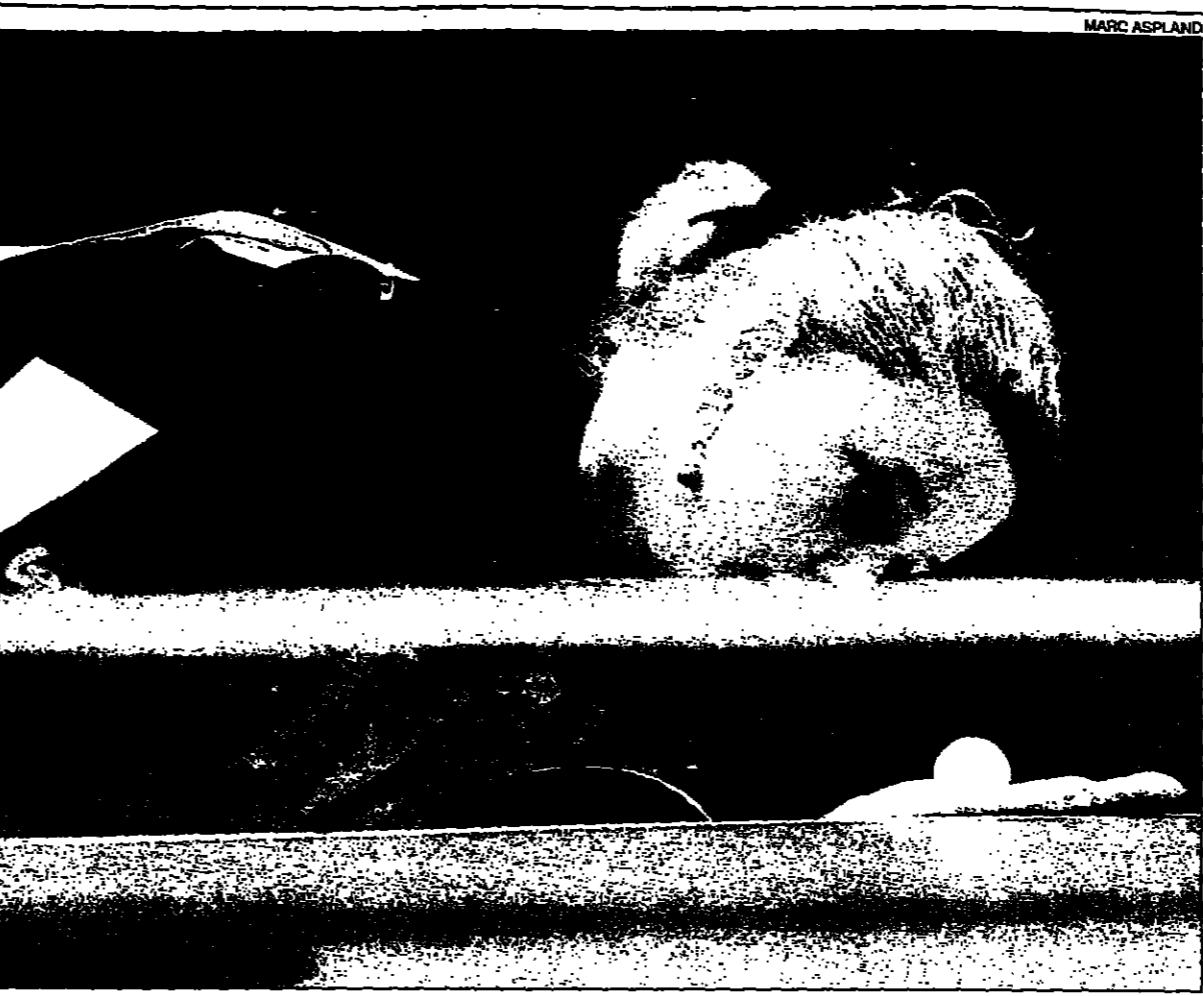
The second round got underway yesterday, with Lee Walker and Alan McManus sharing the first of their three sessions 4-4.

RESULTS: First round (best of 10 frames): A Henning (Eng) 10-9 J Wattana (Tha) 10-9 D Dott (Eng) 10-9 D Dale (Wales) leads A Drago (Mala) 5-4. Second round (best of 21): A Makarius (Sco) level with L Walker (Wales) 4-4.



White: elite no longer

drawn to see whether White will



Cecilia Ozer, of Belgium, prepares to serve during her first-round defeat by Galina Melnik, of Russia

Syed offers reasons to be cheerful

By RICHARD EATON

RARELY has a sporting story offered as many twists and sub-plots as did the opening day of the world table tennis championships in Manchester yesterday. With 44 tables often in simultaneous use, three players in the world's top ten were beaten. Sweden's hopes of regaining the men's team title suffered a scare and two fine wins for Matthew Syed helped England to an encouraging 3-1 win over the Czech Republic as they began their campaign for survival in the top group of the 108-nation tournament.

Ding Song, the defensive-minded world No 7 from China, was sensationally

beaten by Robert Smrekar of Slovenia, but there was still never a likelihood of the world champions being beaten; England's women were beaten 3-1 as Lithuania avenged themselves for their defeat in the last world championships in Tianjin; and two well-known brothers suffered a rare contrast in fortunes. You needed eyes in the back of your head to keep up with it all.

Jean-Michel Saive, the world No 1 only 15 months ago, was beaten twice as Belarus threatened to upset the powerful Belgians, but the younger Philippe Saive, so often overshadowed by Jean-Michel, enjoyed two big wins, one of them against the most-improved

player of 1996, the world No 4, Vladimir Sampsonov, and Belgium sneaked home 3-2. They are good enough to cause anyone problems.

Sweden won 3-1, but this group nearly went the full distance. The coach, Ulf Carlsson, is so concerned to rest his brilliant but ailing stars that he risked leaving out both the former Olympic champion, Jan-Ove Waldner, and the former European bronze medal-winner, Peter Karlsson. One of the replacements, Thomas Von Scheele, lost, and another, Kayode Kadiri, almost did, threatening to allow the match to go rather shakily to a final encounter. Fortunately for them, Jorgen Persson, the former world champion,

was in solid form, winning twice.

While the defeat for England's women was disappointing, with Lisa Lomas, the former European championship silver medal-winner, looking uncomfortable and losing twice, Syed, last week's winner of the Commonwealth men's championship, was determinedly effective, as was Alan Cooke, the runner-up in the Commonwealth tournament, looping his topspin energetically to beat Josef Plachy. Syed outmanoeuvred the fierce-hitting Richard Vyborny and the Olympic semi-finalist, Petr Korbek. It was a good start, but it was still a long way to go to ensure survival.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Beverley Going: good to firm

1.20 Double Agent 2.45 Eternal City, 3.15 Unguided Missile, 3.30 Six Clerks, 4.20 Solomon's Dancer, 4.45 General Manager, 5.25 Light The Fuse.

GOING, GOOD SIS

2.10 BUSINESS TAX CENTRE JUVENILE NOVICES (HURDLE) £2,804 2m 41 (10) (7) (runners) 1. 1100 DOUBLE AGENT 25 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 11-7 - P. Cuthbert 2. 1045 PRETTY FAIR 04 (D.F.G.) D Barker 10-13 - R. Gurd 3. 1055 LADY'S LINGERIE 13 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Niven 4. 1060 SANTA'S REALIA 14 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - D. McMillan 5. 1065 POLITICAL MANDATE 20 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - D. McMillan 6. 1070 POLITICAL MANDATE 21 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - B. Murray 7. 1075 CLOTHESLINE 15 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - S. Taylor 8. 1080 POLITICAL MANDATE 22 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - S. Taylor 9. 1085 POLITICAL MANDATE 23 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - S. Taylor 10. 1090 POLITICAL MANDATE 24 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - S. Taylor 11. 1095 POLITICAL MANDATE 25 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 12. 1100 POLITICAL MANDATE 26 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 13. 1105 POLITICAL MANDATE 27 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 14. 1110 POLITICAL MANDATE 28 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 15. 1115 POLITICAL MANDATE 29 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 16. 1120 POLITICAL MANDATE 30 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 17. 1125 POLITICAL MANDATE 31 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 18. 1130 POLITICAL MANDATE 32 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 19. 1135 POLITICAL MANDATE 33 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 20. 1140 POLITICAL MANDATE 34 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 21. 1145 POLITICAL MANDATE 35 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 22. 1150 POLITICAL MANDATE 36 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 23. 1155 POLITICAL MANDATE 37 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 24. 1160 POLITICAL MANDATE 38 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 25. 1165 POLITICAL MANDATE 39 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 26. 1170 POLITICAL MANDATE 40 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 27. 1175 POLITICAL MANDATE 41 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 28. 1180 POLITICAL MANDATE 42 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 29. 1185 POLITICAL MANDATE 43 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 30. 1190 POLITICAL MANDATE 44 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 31. 1195 POLITICAL MANDATE 45 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 32. 1200 POLITICAL MANDATE 46 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 33. 1205 POLITICAL MANDATE 47 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 34. 1210 POLITICAL MANDATE 48 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 35. 1215 POLITICAL MANDATE 49 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 36. 1220 POLITICAL MANDATE 50 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 37. 1225 POLITICAL MANDATE 51 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 38. 1230 POLITICAL MANDATE 52 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 39. 1235 POLITICAL MANDATE 53 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 40. 1240 POLITICAL MANDATE 54 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 41. 1245 POLITICAL MANDATE 55 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 42. 1250 POLITICAL MANDATE 56 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 43. 1255 POLITICAL MANDATE 57 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 44. 1260 POLITICAL MANDATE 58 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 45. 1265 POLITICAL MANDATE 59 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 46. 1270 POLITICAL MANDATE 60 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 47. 1275 POLITICAL MANDATE 61 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 48. 1280 POLITICAL MANDATE 62 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 49. 1285 POLITICAL MANDATE 63 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 50. 1290 POLITICAL MANDATE 64 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 51. 1295 POLITICAL MANDATE 65 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 52. 1300 POLITICAL MANDATE 66 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 53. 1305 POLITICAL MANDATE 67 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 54. 1310 POLITICAL MANDATE 68 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 55. 1315 POLITICAL MANDATE 69 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 56. 1320 POLITICAL MANDATE 70 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 57. 1325 POLITICAL MANDATE 71 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 58. 1330 POLITICAL MANDATE 72 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 59. 1335 POLITICAL MANDATE 73 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 60. 1340 POLITICAL MANDATE 74 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 61. 1345 POLITICAL MANDATE 75 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 62. 1350 POLITICAL MANDATE 76 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 63. 1355 POLITICAL MANDATE 77 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 64. 1360 POLITICAL MANDATE 78 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 65. 1365 POLITICAL MANDATE 79 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 66. 1370 POLITICAL MANDATE 80 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 67. 1375 POLITICAL MANDATE 81 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 68. 1380 POLITICAL MANDATE 82 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 69. 1385 POLITICAL MANDATE 83 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 70. 1390 POLITICAL MANDATE 84 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 71. 1395 POLITICAL MANDATE 85 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 72. 1400 POLITICAL MANDATE 86 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 73. 1405 POLITICAL MANDATE 87 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 74. 1410 POLITICAL MANDATE 88 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 75. 1415 POLITICAL MANDATE 89 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 76. 1420 POLITICAL MANDATE 90 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 77. 1425 POLITICAL MANDATE 91 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 78. 1430 POLITICAL MANDATE 92 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 79. 1435 POLITICAL MANDATE 93 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 80. 1440 POLITICAL MANDATE 94 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 81. 1445 POLITICAL MANDATE 95 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 82. 1450 POLITICAL MANDATE 96 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 83. 1455 POLITICAL MANDATE 97 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 84. 1460 POLITICAL MANDATE 98 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 85. 1465 POLITICAL MANDATE 99 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 86. 1470 POLITICAL MANDATE 100 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 87. 1475 POLITICAL MANDATE 101 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 88. 1480 POLITICAL MANDATE 102 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 89. 1485 POLITICAL MANDATE 103 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 90. 1490 POLITICAL MANDATE 104 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 91. 1495 POLITICAL MANDATE 105 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 92. 1500 POLITICAL MANDATE 106 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 93. 1505 POLITICAL MANDATE 107 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 94. 1510 POLITICAL MANDATE 108 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 95. 1515 POLITICAL MANDATE 109 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 96. 1520 POLITICAL MANDATE 110 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 97. 1525 POLITICAL MANDATE 111 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 98. 1530 POLITICAL MANDATE 112 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 99. 1535 POLITICAL MANDATE 113 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 100. 1540 POLITICAL MANDATE 114 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 101. 1545 POLITICAL MANDATE 115 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 102. 1550 POLITICAL MANDATE 116 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 103. 1555 POLITICAL MANDATE 117 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 104. 1560 POLITICAL MANDATE 118 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 105. 1565 POLITICAL MANDATE 119 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 106. 1570 POLITICAL MANDATE 120 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 107. 1575 POLITICAL MANDATE 121 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 108. 1580 POLITICAL MANDATE 122 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 109. 1585 POLITICAL MANDATE 123 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 110. 1590 POLITICAL MANDATE 124 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 111. 1595 POLITICAL MANDATE 125 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 112. 1600 POLITICAL MANDATE 126 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 113. 1605 POLITICAL MANDATE 127 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 114. 1610 POLITICAL MANDATE 128 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 115. 1615 POLITICAL MANDATE 129 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 116. 1620 POLITICAL MANDATE 130 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 117. 1625 POLITICAL MANDATE 131 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 118. 1630 POLITICAL MANDATE 132 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 119. 1635 POLITICAL MANDATE 133 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 120. 1640 POLITICAL MANDATE 134 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 121. 1645 POLITICAL MANDATE 135 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 122. 1650 POLITICAL MANDATE 136 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 123. 1655 POLITICAL MANDATE 137 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 124. 1660 POLITICAL MANDATE 138 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 125. 1665 POLITICAL MANDATE 139 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 126. 1670 POLITICAL MANDATE 140 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey 127. 1675 POLITICAL MANDATE 141 (D.F.G.) J Johnson 10-13 - P. Fessey

CH D 10750

SHOW UP

CLUB
MD

THE BANKING GROUP

AND WE HAVE

THEIR REPUTATION

COSTANTINO
ROCCA
e Staff

PERONI

PERONI



PERONI NASTRO AZZURRO: THE GREAT ITALIAN PREMIUM BEER
SPONSOR OF THE 54TH ITALIAN OPEN

CRICKET

Nixon provides reminder of champions' style

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LEICESTER (second day of four): Gloucestershire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 54 runs behind Leicestershire

There were many times last year when the majority questioned Leicestershire's ability to win the championship, and the same old doubts have resurfaced on each of the first two days of this new season. However, the mark of champions is to win when playing poorly, and that is what should now happen here.

An hour after lunch yesterday, Leicestershire's prospects were as bleak as the skies over Grace Road. Their last pair were together and they trailed Gloucestershire, a team surely bound for the wrong end of the table, by 39 runs. On a pitch where the odd ball keeps disconcertingly low, this was an unpromising position.

The legacies of winning the title, however, include an unquenchable spirit and, here, it was exemplified by Paul Nixon. For more than two hours, this virtue was restated in a last-wicket stand that adjourned on 99, when bad light drew a merciful veil over Gloucestershire's efforts, and finally totalled 101.

Nixon is a combative player, one of the best batting wicketkeepers around, and few will be surprised by his contribution. For a partner, however, he had the fledgeling James Ormond, whose known credentials can be gauged



Maddy: frustration

Sri Lanka lose spinner

MUTTIAH Muralitharan, the only Sri Lanka bowler to have taken more than 100 Test wickets, has been ruled out of the second Test match against Pakistan, which starts in Colombo tomorrow.

Muralitharan has strained a muscle near his rib cage. He has been replaced by Ruwan Kalpagam, the off spinner, in a 14-man squad for the final match in a two-game series. Another casualty is Nuwan

from the fact that he batted behind Alan Mullally. The order may rapidly be revised, for Ormond showed poise, patience and a serviceable technique while making 35 in his initial first-class innings.

Without him, their bowling has no edge and, although April is hardly the time to condemn, Shaun Young does not look the man to provide it. He did not take a wicket here and looked more support than spearhead. His pace is comparable with that of Mike Smith and, for 28 overs against the last pair, he was not even used. No wonder the county is keen to believe in David Lawrence's comeback.

They have, at least, been competitive in this game, even if it is difficult to see where any weight of runs and wickets will come from over the summer. Alleyne, the new captain, was their best bowler, maintaining a fuller, more effective length than Leicestershire had done on Wednesday and taking his third wicket when he knocked out James Whitaker's middle stump.

Though nothing happened too quickly on this surface, the ball swung and seemed appreciably and only Darren Maddy proceeded without problems. He made 80, in four hours, and the disgust he displayed after toe-ending a slip catch from a ball he need not have played was a measure of his ambition — this he viewed as a lost opportunity rather than a comfortable start to the season.

A poorly-conceived cut from Macmillan had given Hancock a rare wicket and, after lunch, spin gained its first reward when Martyn Ball took two wickets in successive overs. The Gloucestershire batsmen began their limbering up, but they were still going through the motions after the delayed tea interval had come and gone.

When their chance came at last, only two overs were possible before the light closed in again. However, weather permitting, this is a game the champions believe they will win.

HOVE (second day of four): Sussex, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 29 runs ahead of Northamptonshire

THE trouble with some English cricketers is that they never know when they are finished. A year ago, Neil Taylor was apparently with a hundred was Hugh Bartlett, 60 years ago. Taylor now has 43 centuries to his credit, the same number as Wells — and Taylor has played 516 innings to Wells's 533.

At Kent, Taylor was believed to be the victim of a personality clash with Daryl Foster, then the coach. He was perceived to have a weakness against fast bowling, but there was no sign of it yesterday as he hooked, pulled and drove Mohammad Akram, who did not justify claims that he is quicker than Wasim and Waqar, but was nevertheless decidedly sharp.

to help Sussex to keep their noses in front in their match with Northamptonshire.

This was the second time that Taylor, 37, has scored a century on his first-class debut for a county, having done so for Kent against the touring Sri Lankans 18 years ago. The last Sussex man to mark his first appearance with a hundred was Hugh Bartlett, 60 years ago. Taylor now has 43 centuries to his credit, the same number as Wells — and Taylor has played 516 innings to Wells's 533.

At Kent, Taylor was believed to be the victim of a personality clash with Daryl Foster, then the coach. He was perceived to have a weakness against fast bowling, but there was no sign of it yesterday as he hooked, pulled and drove Mohammad Akram, who did not justify claims that he is quicker than Wasim and Waqar, but was nevertheless decidedly sharp.

"If you average 40 in first-class cricket you just cannot be a bad player of fast bowling," Tony Pignot, the acting chief executive of Sussex, said. "There's nowhere to hide when you do that much batting. Neil is just what we need. He is greedy for runs and will bat all day for us."

Taylor has something of a reputation for slow scoring, but he was no slouch yesterday and moved from 104 to 122 courtesy of four boundaries in one over from Snape, who, like Emburey, found a dry pitch offering frustratingly little turn. Taylor hit 20 fours and a six in a stay of little more than four hours at the crease.

No less significant, perhaps, to Sussex's long-term prosperity was the bat of Keith Newell, who confirmed his promise with a championship-best 91 not out. He arrived at the crease after Akram, having removed Greenfield in his first spell, had returned to

extract Athey. With Sussex on 137 for three, Northamptonshire might have poured through the breach, but Newell stayed firm then and for the next four hours.

It was a frustrating day for Northamptonshire, who found their opponents far less pliant than expected. Only one sharp work in the game kept them in the game. Shape completed a good diving catch in the gully to remove Taylor and Warren a sharp stamping off Emburey to remove Moore, so that with Drakes making only a brief stay, Sussex were still 12 runs behind with four wickets left. Newell and Jarvis, however, added 41 vital runs in the last 12 overs of the day.

Taylor's was the second excellent debut performance for Sussex in the match. Robinson picked up the one remaining Northamptonshire wicket — Snape for 55, which equalled his championship best — to finish with six for 78. Taylor was cut by Stephenson, his old opening partner, to the boundary at the start, but he was making his runs, led to his dismissal. Looking to flick a short ball from Stephenson over the slips, Law was taken at the wicket. It should be said that he was well forward.

After lunch, Law, partnered first by Prichard and then by Irani, inexorably built up a considerable lead. Law arrived in Essex from Australia only the day before this match, but jet lagged or not, he struck 12 fours in an innings of 78 off 89 balls.

Tiredness, frustration with having to contend with a fielder on the boundary at point, or, perhaps, the sheer ease with which he was making his runs, led to his dismissal. Looking to flick a short ball from Stephenson over the slips, Law was taken at the wicket. It had been a lovely innings.

Irani's concern after that must have been that he would run out of partners. Robinson went first ball and Danny Law was nicely taken by Keesh at second slip. Hyam also followed but Iltot provided the necessary support. At the close, Irani was five runs short of a century, having struck 14 fours off 163 balls. And most of them were struck pretty hard.

In the morning, Essex had gained a first innings lead of 85 when they removed the last three Hampshire batsmen. Iltot took two wickets and the gangly Cowan had Aymes taken by Hyam, beaten by the bounce. That gave Cowan career best figures of five for 49.

Fully recovered from a toe operation, he is, as the cricket magazines like to say, one to watch. Graham Gooch respects his ability and that is the commendation he needs above all others.

There should be more wickets for him today, when Hampshire will be left to make a total of around 500 to win. It is the ideal opportunity for Hayden to show that he, too, should not have been omitted from Australia's touring party.

Taylor made for second coming

BY SIMON WILDE

HOVE (second day of four): Sussex, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 29 runs ahead of Northamptonshire

THE trouble with some English cricketers is that they never know when they are finished. A year ago, Neil Taylor was apparently with a hundred was Hugh Bartlett, 60 years ago. Taylor now has 43 centuries to his credit, the same number as Wells — and Taylor has played 516 innings to Wells's 533.

At Kent, Taylor was believed to be the victim of a personality clash with Daryl Foster, then the coach. He was perceived to have a weakness against fast bowling, but there was no sign of it yesterday as he hooked, pulled and drove Mohammad Akram, who did not justify claims that he is quicker than Wasim and Waqar, but was nevertheless decidedly sharp.

to help Sussex to keep their noses in front in their match with Northamptonshire.

This was the second time that Taylor, 37, has scored a century on his first-class debut for a county, having done so for Kent against the touring Sri Lankans 18 years ago. The last Sussex man to mark his first appearance with a hundred was Hugh Bartlett, 60 years ago. Taylor now has 43 centuries to his credit, the same number as Wells — and Taylor has played 516 innings to Wells's 533.

At Kent, Taylor was believed to be the victim of a personality clash with Daryl Foster, then the coach. He was perceived to have a weakness against fast bowling, but there was no sign of it yesterday as he hooked, pulled and drove Mohammad Akram, who did not justify claims that he is quicker than Wasim and Waqar, but was nevertheless decidedly sharp.

"If you average 40 in first-class cricket you just cannot be a bad player of fast bowling," Tony Pignot, the acting chief executive of Sussex, said. "There's nowhere to hide when you do that much batting. Neil is just what we need. He is greedy for runs and will bat all day for us."

Taylor has something of a reputation for slow scoring, but he was no slouch yesterday and moved from 104 to 122 courtesy of four boundaries in one over from Snape, who, like Emburey, found a dry pitch offering frustratingly little turn.

No less significant, perhaps, to Sussex's long-term prosperity was the bat of Keith Newell, who confirmed his promise with a championship-best 91 not out. He arrived at the crease after Akram, having removed Greenfield in his first spell, had returned to

extract Athey. With Sussex on 137 for three, Northamptonshire might have poured through the breach, but Newell stayed firm then and for the next four hours.

It was a frustrating day for Northamptonshire, who found their opponents far less pliant than expected. Only one sharp work in the game kept them in the game. Shape completed a good diving catch in the gully to remove Taylor and Warren a sharp stamping off Emburey to remove Moore, so that with Drakes making only a brief stay, Sussex were still 12 runs behind with four wickets left. Newell and Jarvis, however, added 41 vital runs in the last 12 overs of the day.

Taylor's was the second excellent debut performance for Sussex in the match. Robinson picked up the one remaining Northamptonshire wicket — Snape for 55, which equalled his championship best — to finish with six for 78.

At Kent, Taylor was cut by Stephenson, his old opening partner, to the boundary at the start, but he was making his runs, led to his dismissal. Looking to flick a short ball from Stephenson over the slips, Law was taken at the wicket. It should be said that he was well forward.

After lunch, Law, partnered first by Prichard and then by Irani, inexorably built up a considerable lead. Law arrived in Essex from Australia only the day before this match, but jet lagged or not, he struck 12 fours in an innings of 78 off 89 balls.

Tiredness, frustration with having to contend with a fielder on the boundary at point, or, perhaps, the sheer ease with which he was making his runs, led to his dismissal. Looking to flick a short ball from Stephenson over the slips, Law was taken at the wicket. It had been a lovely innings.

Irani's concern after that must have been that he would run out of partners. Robinson went first ball and Danny Law was nicely taken by Keesh at second slip. Hyam also followed but Iltot provided the necessary support. At the close, Irani was five runs short of a century, having struck 14 fours off 163 balls. And most of them were struck pretty hard.

In the morning, Essex had gained a first innings lead of 85 when they removed the last three Hampshire batsmen. Iltot took two wickets and the gangly Cowan had Aymes taken by Hyam, beaten by the bounce. That gave Cowan career best figures of five for 49.

Fully recovered from a toe operation, he is, as the cricket magazines like to say, one to watch. Graham Gooch respects his ability and that is the commendation he needs above all others.

There should be more wickets for him today, when Hampshire will be left to make a total of around 500 to win. It is the ideal opportunity for Hayden to show that he, too, should not have been omitted from Australia's touring party.

Brain before bravado puts DeFreitas in control

BY PAT GIBSON

CANTERBURY (second day of four): Kent, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 177 runs ahead of Derbyshire

THERE was a time when Phillip DeFreitas would have reacted to the sight of Devon Malcolm and Martin McCague hurling down their thunderbolts by trying to prove that he could bowl as fast as either of them. Not any more.

They still call him "Daffy", but he bowls with more brain than bravado these days and it is just as well for Derbyshire that he does, otherwise Trevor Ward, of Kent, arguably the best uncapped batsman in the country, would have taken this game away from them by now.

Then Clarke, making a good impression in his first championship innings for his third county, and Cork, showing that, whatever is ailing him, there is nothing wrong with his spirit, applied the brake in a six-wicket partnership of 65.

Both eventually fell to Headley, who bowled some fairly rapid balls of his own, but he could not shake Krikken, the wicketkeeper with the farmer's gait and the town crier's yowl, who epitomises the commitment of this Derbyshire side.

Strang's leg spin, deployed for the first time in county cricket, was treated with something close to contempt when it was pitched short as Krikken clubbed nine fours in 61 before Strang took his revenge by running him out with a direct hit from back-

ward point. By then, however, DeFreitas had helped Krikken to add valuable runs and, when the dedicated Dean and the flat-tiring Malcolm put on an improbable 31, the last five wickets had produced 204 runs and trimmed Kent's lead to a mere three.

All eyes then turned to Malcolm again, but sadly the magic of the previous day had left him already. He did strike one blow on Fulton's little finger that forced the opener to retire hurt, but it was not until DeFreitas was introduced that Derbyshire got a wicket.

Long, who had taken 49 minutes to get off the mark, was deceived by his slower ball and caught at cover and then the returning Fulton, Wells and Fleming were all trapped leg before, plumb in front.

Ealham prevented the hat-trick, but he soon fell chasing a wide one from Dean and it was left to Ward, playing in a different league to any other batsman in the match, to make sure that Kent retained the initiative. At the close of play, he had made his 95 off only 109 balls and struck 18 fours.

Watkinson prevented the hat-trick, but he soon fell chasing a wide one from Dean and it was left to Ward, playing in a different league to any other batsman in the match, to make sure that Kent retained the initiative. At the close of play, he had made his 95 off only 109 balls and struck 18 fours.

Watkinson also had to retire with a strained arm.

Martin Speight would not have been recognised at Hove, revealing an unexpected obduracy in scoring three in 12 overs, by which time Gary Yates had taken turns and flight. He dismissed Speight with a looping arm ball; three runs later, Mel Beets was confounded by another yorker from Chapple. Morris returned for one run before tea and then retired again, which left the captain-manager and the tail to battle on.

Boon has so far faced 146 balls and hit 11 fours and a straight six off Yates; otherwise he was mostly cuts and turns. "We've got to learn to close them down," he told his weary troops after the first day. Now he has to show them how to open up.

OLD TRAFFORD (second day of four): Durham, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 305 runs behind Lancashire

DAVID BOON has given an Australian innings the solidity of Ayers Rock; now he has to provide Durham with something of the durability of their cathedral, shoring up a batting order that too often seems eroded by the Lambton Worm.

That much, with a valiant, undefeated 85, he did on a day when all was against his team. Facing Lancashire's enormous total, Durham had to bat under day-long grey cloud that helped the ball swing, in poor light that led to three stoppages, and carrying the

handicap of John Morris's badly-bruised right thumb. They could not even start on the field at strength. Simon Brown having a strain, while Glen Chapple and Peter Martin had enlarged their last-wicket stand of 134 by another 12 until it reached the highest recorded last-wicket partnership at the ground.

Chapple was unusually quick at times, looking as though he might again find the form of two years ago, when he and Darren Gough were hailed as the new Statham and Trueman.

Soon after lunch, Morris had his thumb struck by Austin, which left Durham effectively 71 for three. Boon and Speight held on for 17 overs as Lancashire rotated their seamers. Mike Watkinson as a medium, breaking through when Speight, losing patience, was taken at first slip, cutting.

CHANGING TIMES

1000 1500 2000 2500 3000 3500 4000 4500 5000 5500 6000 6500 7000 7500 8000 8500 9000 9500 10000 10500 11000 11500 12000 12500 13000 13500 14000 14500 15000 15500 16000 16500 17000 17500 18000 18500 19000 19500 20000 20500 21000 21500 22000 22500 23000 23500 24000 24500 25000 25500 26000 26500 27000 27500 28000 28500 29000 29500 30000 30500 31000 31500 32000 32500 33000 33500 34000 34500 35000 35500 36000 36500 37000 37500 38000 38500 39000 39500 40000 40500 41000 41500 42000 42500 43000 43500 44000 44500 45000 45500 46000 46500 47000 47500 48000 48500 49000 49500 50000 50500 51000 51500 52000 52500 53000 53500 54000 54500 55000 55500 56000 56500 57000 57500 58

Turf experience a cut above others

The Chesterfield goalkeeper, Billy Mercer, may be a popular figure with Cup watchers at the moment, yet his name is mud with the groundsman at Brentford's Griffin Park. As I learnt yesterday, at the un-promisingly-titled "Turf Experience" at Wembley Stadium, goalkeepers have a bad habit of making a mid-point line on the pitch with their boots — or scoring, you might light-heartedly call it (so long as a proud pitch-manager wasn't in ear-shot. "It's an infringement, but they do it anyway," the groundsman sighs, fatalistically).

Anyway, that colossus Mercer scored at Brentford and, despite all his other successes, he will not be forgiven. "What can you do about the mark?" I ask the groundsman, naively. "Fill it in?" "Well," he says, "I'd rather fill *him* in, to be honest."

A "turf experience" is not



Truss makes the most of a close encounter with Wembley's hallowed turf and finds it in excellent shape

something I've ever had before. Asked in what profession "spiking", "cutting up" and "bobbling" might be specialist vocabulary, I'd have guessed with confidence hairdressing or peddling drugs. But more than 100 blokes turned up at Wembley yesterday morning to hear talks on such vital subjects as "Rootzone Water Management for Uniform Turf Surfaces", and every single one of them knew more about grass than I'll ever know about anything.

"Do you cut the grass at home, or do you hate it?" I ask Rob McCullagh, the man with the top job at Wembley Stadium. With obvious pleasure, he rubs his hands. "Neither," he says. "I live in a flat."

These are the men who watch vital matches but never raise their gaze from the level of the grass. They yell "Get him off" seemingly out of context. These are men (oh yes) who can tell a divot from a hole in the ground. To them the "rootzone" does not mean the position in which Brighton and Hove Albion now find themselves. When the speaker from the Sports Turf Research Institute paints a futuristic picture of multipurpose sports stadiums, with pitches grown in the car park and rolled up and brought inside only as required, I am as round-eyed as anybody.

They already have a port-

able pitch developed on this principle at Arnhem, apparently — but in my opinion it's a disaster waiting to happen. One day they will roll it up, then count all the players, and discover that several of them are missing, like that old joke about the budget and the carpet.

We tend to forget how unnatural it is to grow a field in the middle of a football stadium. But it's extremely weird, really, which is why the sight of misplaced grass is probably the most vivid aspect of one's first trips to live football. A friend who loathed *Fever Pitch* (the movie, not the book) nevertheless applauded the scene when young Paul emerges from tunnel and steps, and sees the grass for the first time. What's that doing in here? In the midst of all the mundane concrete, it is finding a waterfall in a multi-storey car park.

It's very green: it's very flat; it's very large and, if you're lucky, it's got patterns on it. At Wembley — where the turf has

of course the extra distinction of being hallowed (hello, turf!) — it's generally mown in a criss-cross pattern, although McCullagh, the nice, flat-dwelling groundsman, has a hankering after diamonds as well.

There appear to be no bad

boys of pitch management. I was

It's nice to think of these guys having fun'

hoping for tales of cowboys who spray green paint and hope for the best, or patch up goalposts with敷具 from Allied Carpets. But it doesn't happen.

"What happened to Astrout?" is a question that simply betrays my age and falls flat, like refunding people of their Zappata mustaches. On artificial grass, I suspect, a sliding tackle might result in spectacular friction-ignition — a picture once imagined, never forgotten. "Brave horizontal tackle from Batty," Motson says on the telly. "But ooh look, it's hap-

pened again! His bum's on fire!"

Motson's flow is good: finding flow is bad. It's amazing what you can pick up about effective watering techniques in a mere half-day, although one cannot forget that the Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute has reached volume 72, so presumably there's a lot more to it than that. Meanwhile, it is worth knowing that, while a "Creeping Bent" may sound like one of Sherlock Holmes's less successful disguises, it is in fact a species of grass. On the Wembley pitch, there's a combination of ryegrass which looks in excellent nick to me. But then, I always applaud well-cut grass, having grown up in a household in which my father *never* cut the grass was a domestic non-cooperation issue of disproportionate significance.

"So this profession — would you call it a level playing field? I kept wanting to ask, but somehow could never get up the nerve. But I know one thing: I'll always take the worm's-eye-view of the football pitch in future. And when a goalkeeper is beaten by a random bounce caused by his own infringement, I shall make like an aggrieved groundsman and say 'Serves you right.'

"Do you ever water the grass just to watch the players fall over?" I ask the Brentford man. Tiredness is setting in, perhaps: I'm clutching at — well, grass. But it's nice to think of these guys having a bit of fun sometimes. Why else would the chaps at Sunderland have mown the pitch at Roker Park in concentric circles for the Middlesbrough match? Either he wanted the visitors to suffer vertigo, or it was pure *joue de ville* for the sake of the cameras, a little like writing "Hello Mum" with his lawnmower.

For the past eight weeks Holmes's visit was an absolute necessity; slow ships, however powerful, have everything to lose. "The first pure Cuniberti ship, *Vittorio Emanuele*, laid down in 1901, first of a class of four, had two 12-inch guns plus 12 8-inch, all on a displacement of under 13,000 tons. Her speed of 21 knots was 4 knots faster than any foreign ship."

LOOSE LINER

(c) The inner tube of a barrel, carrying the rifling on its inside face. It may be removed and replaced without the need to dismantle the barrel. The term may also apply to the fitting of a tube to a gun of greater calibre, the 3.7 inch Mark 6 AA gun being an example.

WANKEL

(c) An engine invented and developed by Frederick Wankel (1902-1988). A rotary internal combustion engine. Essentially a triangular body on an eccentrically pivoted shaft, with three corners touching the walls of the surround, thus forming three combustion chambers varying in volume as it turns. Despite its simplicity, due to conservation and freedom from variation, the Wankel engine has remained more of a curiosity than a practical piece of equipment in wide use.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Qa7! Wins a further piece, as if 2 Rxa7 Rd1+ mating.

Garden Party: Tonight 8.00

Down to earth advice with horticultural hot-shots



TELEVISION CHOICE

Testing the leisure market

Weekend Watchdog

BBC1, 7.00pm

The latest of several offspring of the consumer show is a Friday edition devoted, appropriately, to the leisure field. Some of the areas, such as package holidays, have been well covered on the parent programme. But the agenda also includes complaints against high street shops, cinemas, restaurants, pubs, garden centres, amusement parks and sports venues. All of which should provide plenty of material for the tested and Kiernan team of Anne Robinson and the man whose first name looks like a misspelling, Johnathan Mailand. There is more emphasis than before on live phone lines and the fortnight Robinson will be challenging errant companies to mend their ways within a 30-minute deadline. *Weekend Watchdog* is also making what could be a rash promise to use its own plane to fly home holidaymakers who are having a rotten time.

A Golfer's Travels With Peter Alliss

BBC2, 8.00pm

Alliss's amiable golfing chat show comes from Spain, host this year of the Ryder Cup and synonymous with Seve Ballesteros. Sadly there is no Ballesteros in the film. Instead Alliss talks to Jaime Ortiz-Palma, owner of the Valderrama course where the Ryder Cup will be played, and plays a couple of holes on the "Augusta of Europe". From there it is off to Rio Tinto, a gravel course (you bring your own matting) which is not the Augusta of anywhere but is of interest as the first place where golf was played in Spain. It was imported by Scottish miners. Non-golfers who have read so far and feel the programme is not for them may be pleased to know that Alliss's other guest is Steven Redgrave. This is the cue for yet another inquest on Britain's awful showing (Redgrave and partner excepted) in the Olympics.

Garden Party

Channel 4, 8.30pm

When *Garden Party* was first aired last year it tended only to make existing gardening programmes look all the more slick and professional. The idea of assembling a trio of experts to visit gardens and dispense advice,



Anne Robinson investigates (BBC1, 7.00)

seemed sound enough, not least because for half a century it has been the basis of *Gardeners' Question Time* on radio. But despite having the advantage that it could show what it was talking about, the programme flowed far less well than Radio 4's perennial. While the new series is not available for previewing, it is a fair bet that lessons have been learnt. Check for yourself as Tom Barber, once again in the anchor role, takes fellow horticulturalists David Jones and Carol Klein to the spring gardens of Docton Mill in Devon.

Gardeners' World

BBC2, 8.30pm

Meanwhile, over at the BBC's gardening show, Bob Flowerdew is in trouble. It all stems from his infamous item last year about growing potatoes in towers of old car tyres. Viewers seem either to have dismissed the idea with scorn or to have tried it and found it wanting. Flowerdew does his best to look unabashed. He suggests where unsuccessful growers may have gone wrong and demonstrates his continued faith in the theory by planting even more varieties in even more towers. You cannot imagine *Henri Yenten using old car tyres*. *Yenten* was the slightly schoolmarmish host of *Gardening From Scratch*. Having told other gardeners what to do, she now shows us her garden. Meanwhile, Alan Titchmarsh dispenses cheery wisdom on growing fruit in a small space and keeping cats off flowerbeds.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

The Front

Radio 4, 9.30pm

A man walking down the high street at Lewes in Sussex is dressed as a zebra. He attracts little attention and is certainly not regarded as odd. The reason is that it is November 5, when Lewes has a carnival. On any other day of the year, the man would attract curious glances and cause discomfort among other pedestrians. The essence of this new series is the relationship between people and pretence: how we tend to assume certain protective positions for certain situations, at school, at work and at home. Pretence runs deep, it goes back to the apes and is to be seen in the behaviour of wounded animals, which will take elaborate measures to give the impression they are not wounded. Sara Parker explores the phenomenon.

RADIO 1

7.00am: Kevin Greening 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Nick Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 6.15 Newscast 6.30 Pale Tong — Essential Selection 10.00 London Music Week. One in the Jungle 12.00 Radio 1 Rap Show with Tim Westwood 3.00am Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 8.05 Wake Up to Wogan 10.00 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30 Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Durn 7.00 Hubert Gregg 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night from the North Wales Theatre, Llandudno. With the BBC Concert Orchestra under Rodenick Dink 9.15 Last Orders (38) 9.30 Listen to the Band 10.00 Sheridan Morley 12.00am Charles Note

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 8.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mar 2.00pm Ruscoe on Five 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.20 Friday Sport with John Murray. Football, Bolton Wanderers v Charlton Athletic; Norwich City v Manchester City and Birmingham City v Oxford United 10.00 Brian Hayes's Election Night 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashby and Sandy War 7.00 Paul Ross 8.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Loraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Drive with Peter Neely 7.00 Moz Dee's Sportszone 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew MacGregor. Includes Mozart (Symphony No 36 in C); Bach (Oboe Quintet); Shostakovich (Prelude and Fugue); Berlioz (Overture, Beatrice and Benedict); Beethoven (Prelude, Fugue and Riffs); 8.00 Building a Library; Bach (Brandenburg Concerto); Sibelius (Finlandia)

9.00 Morning Collection, with Penny Gordon. Includes Stravinsky (Eight Instrumental Suites); Liszt (Piano Concerto No 1 in E flat); Grainger (English Dance); Dvořák (The Hero's Song)

10.00 Morning News; Bristol Lunchtime Concert. Includes Brahms (String Piano Concerto); Haydn (Symphony No 65 in A); Lake (Cello Sonata); Ravel (Three Rakes); Saint-Saëns (Cello Sonata No 2 in F); John Ward (My Breast 'll Set)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Rachmaninov. Includes Rachmaninov (Preludes); Schubert (Trout); Brahms (String Quartet); Tchaikovsky (1812 Overture); Weber (Overture to Oberon); Schubert (Nocturne for Piano, Violin and Cello in E flat) 10.00 Michael Mepkin 2.00am Concerto (I)

From the Canyons to the Stars

Radio 3, 7.30pm

Olivier Messiaen is regarded as the most significant French composer of the post-war era and *Des Canyons aux Etoiles (From the Canyons to the Stars)* is his most towering and wide-ranging composition, played tonight by the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra as part of Radio 3's *Soundings* season. Messiaen was inspired to write the piece during a visit to Utah in the 1970s. It is in 14 short movements split into three sections, and it makes formidable use of woodwind, brass and percussion to paint a musical picture of creation and contemplation. The principal soloists tonight are Roll Hind (piano), David Flack (horn) and Heather Corbet and David Lyons (percussion).

Peter Barnard

WORLD SERVICE

4.00am Mark Griffiths 7.00 Mike Read 9.00 Hall of Fame Hour

4.30pm Henry Kelly 12.00 Election '97 1.00pm Concerto 3.00 Jamie Clark 7.00 Newsnight 7.30 Sunday 8.00 Concerti Weber (Overture to Oberon); Schubert (Nocturne for Piano, Violin and Cello in E flat) 10.00 Michael Mepkin 2.00am Concerto (I)

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jon's Breakfast Experience 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Horne 7.00 Paul Coyle (FM) 4.00pm Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Alan Freeman 12.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Howard Pearce

RADIO 4

5.15 In Tune, with Andrew Green. Includes Schubert, transcr. Liszt (Das Wadern); Chabrier (Espagne); Rachmaninov (Vocalises)

7.30 From the Canyons to the Stars. See Choice. Includes the Tramway Theatre in Glasgow. Olivier Messiaen: *Des Canyons aux Etoiles*. Conductor Marlyn Braddock

9.15 Stilettos Voices. In the last of five programmes exploring the life, history and literature of Sicily, Joe Farrell looks at Sicilian writers such as Leonardo Sciascia

9.35 Home to a Parrot. Sandro Ivo Bartoli, piano, plays Malibran's piano sonatas. Includes homages to a parrot, an elephant and an idiot. Plus a selection from Malipiero's Italian contemporaries. Includes Respighi (Prelude in B flat) 10.00

10.00 Hear and Now. Sarah Walker talks to clarinettist Andrew Sparling who features in both of tonight's programmes. Topoglio Ensemble, James Clarke (cello), Linda Hargreaves (piano) 11.30 The Tramway Concerto: James Clarke (cello), Linda Hargreaves (piano) 1.00 Michael Finnigan (fiddle); James Ernes (You Done Tom Your Playhouse Down); Jane Clarke (Entremou); Richard Barrell (What Remains); Tapestry Ensemble, Howard Skempton (Cofferten)

11.30 Composers of the Week: Forgotten Giants of Classical Music. See Choice (I)

12.30 Everything's Coming Up Crookhouse. Russell Davies continues the six-part series exploring the life and work of the legendary croonist Sidney Bechet (3/6) (I)

1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod. Includes 1.00 Haydn's *Ritorno di Tobo*; With Zoltan Kodaly, Istvan Kertesz, Katalin Takacs, contralto, Budapest Magyar Csardas Hungarian State Orchestra, under Ferenc Szekeres

5.00 Music Machine, with Tommy Pearson

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, includes Through for the Day

9.00 The Weatherman. Pease puts listeners' questions to Chancellor Kenneth Clarke. Call 0345-514614

10.00 News: Growing Up Global (FM). Julia Mackenzie meets alumni of the Pestalozzi International Children's Village, where refugees from around the world were brought up in an idyllic setting

10.00 An Act of Worship (

Dishing the dirt on a harmless obsession

Taghi Amirani is a filmmaker with a very odd line in questioning. "How long have you been in love?" he asked brightly, a few minutes into last night's *Mad About Machines* (Channel 4). It was a curious question to ask for three reasons. The first being that he hadn't known David and Barbara long; the second, that Barbara had just dropped a major clue by explaining that she met David at Bolton's Palais de Danse 26 years ago. And the third? The programme was supposed to be about vacuum cleaners.

Still, the Cassons had not got to run Accrington's premier vacuum repair business without knowing a thing or two. "Well, we've been married for 26 years," replied Barbara, fixing Amirani with a look that would make an extension lead recoil at five paces. David, however, hoping perhaps that what chimneys did for Fred

Dibnah, vacuum cleaners would do for him, played along: "For two weeks... 26 years ago."

This time it was his turn to be on the receiving end of that look — it works for husbands, too. He was back in that messy repair shop in two shades of the Shake 'N' Vac.

For those who have stuck with this gently enjoyable series, Amirani's method of film-making has long been apparent. He is far more interested in the people than he is in the machines.

It's a laudable failing, but at times it seems to be trying far too hard to turn his subjects into eccentrics. His questioning goes way beyond the normal line of prompting from behind the camera.

If he is going to so control the content of his film by asking extraordinary questions such as "What will happen to Vac Services after you have gone?", he needs to be in front of the camera alongside his

subject. That way we can get the measure of both of them.

And what is that about death, anyway? He's obsessed with it. You might think the discovery that after the passing of Vac Services, "people will have to buy new" would be enough for any filmmaker. But not for Amirani. "Does that make you sad?" No.

"Cut! Move on! Not a bit of it! Is there no way you can make Vac Services live on after you?" David paused, sighed and thought of Dibnah: "No," he said solemnly.

"I'd like it to die with me." At last, our man was happy.

With that we were off to Newlyn, heart of the Cornish fishing industry. Must be another party political broadcast, I thought — you can't move for politicians and battle buses in Newlyn at the moment.

"Hello, I'm Sophie Grigson," said a woman who looked on the

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

cusp between the Greens and the Lib Dems. "Aren't made up my mind yet, slyng 'yer 'ook," said a burly fisherman. Actually, that last bit's not true. "Come and have a look at my salt cod," he said. As Grigson had just gushingly told us that "salt cod is no longer a necessity, it's a luxury," she did as she was bid. Part two of *Taste of the Times* (Channel 4) was underway. What followed was the fascinat-

ing story of surely one of the most pointless ingredients known to man. First take your cod (did you know the best cod is gutted alive?) — quite put me off tonight's fish supper! then cover it in salt, which draws the water out of it and preserves it. Then hang it for a hook while you hibernate for the winter.

When you awake and fancy a bit of fish, soak the salt cod in fresh water, which washes away the salt and puts back the water. Result: something that looks remarkably like readily available fresh cod. Grigson, however, was at pains to stress that the whole thing was not a monumental waste of time: "It's not like fresh cod at all."

The difference, she thought, was akin to that between plums and prunes, a comparison which, for somebody who's never seen the point of dried fruit either, was not entirely helpful. She fairly gallops

through the recipes, too. If you were to slow down a bit, Sophie, I might vote for you.

A week or so ago, *The Times* carried a striking picture of the soon-to-be renamed *Sea Empress* nearing the end of a £22 million refit in Belfast. The picture served as a powerful reminder that what had been a disaster for the Pembrokeshire coast had actually been very good news for the ship-repairers of Harland and Wolff. Last night's *Horizon* (BBC2) modified the picture further still by arguing — as its title *A Perfect Oil Spill* suggested — that the grounding of the *Sea Empress* barely counted as a disaster at all.

Lessons had been learnt from all the major oil disasters, we were told. From the *Torrey Canyon* we learnt that you cannot bin off crude oil by bombing with napalm. Nor is scraping off the top layer of a beach, as the French did

after the *Amoco Cadiz*, a good idea (it gets rid of the oil all right, but it destroys the eco-system of the beach). Nor is using equally damaging pressure hoses, as they did in Alaska after the *Exxon Valdez*. Those gallant Pembrokeshire men with their little shovels and scrapers were doing exactly the right thing, following the latest, softly-softly approach that aims to work with nature rather than against her.

Softly-softly, however, does not mean low-tech nor a happy ending for everybody. Thousands of gallons of dispersants were used, hydrocarbon-munching bacteria were helped along by chemical fertilisers.

And then, following a mass, and very messy, post-mortem, a growing consensus emerged: that the best thing to do with oiled seabirds was not to clean them but pur them out of their misery. Didn't sound perfect to me.

6.00am Business Breakfast (10421)	
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (7037564)	
9.05 Election Call The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, answers viewers' questions (1) (9078335)	
10.00 Style Challenge (7019)	
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (51309)	
11.00 News (7) regional news and weather (4265699)	
11.05 The Really Useful Show (1) (9791030)	
11.35 Snooker: World Championship	
Dougie Donnelly introduces early coverage from day seven; the second round matches, at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre (360274)	
12.35pm Good Living (315767)	
1.00 News (1) and weather (10496)	
1.30 Regional News (1) (5045651)	
1.45 Neighbours (1) (7318487)	
2.10 Snooker: World Championship	
Live coverage as round two continues. Coverage continues on BBC2 (4110899)	
3.30 Mouse and Mole (925458) 3.35 Noddy (1) (6785038) 3.45 Bumper and Badger (1) (676524) 4.00 Act Ventura. Pet Detective (1) (6332583) 4.25 Clarissa Explains It All (1) (6780922) 4.50 Newsround Election Special (1) (1224748) 5.10 Blue Peter (1) (8780877)	
5.35 Neighbours (1) (15125)	
6.00 News (7) and weather (632)	
6.30 Regional News (1) (958000)	
6.55 PEB by the SNP (795571)	
7.00 Weekend Watchdog A look at Britain's leisure industry (1) (1816)	
7.30 Top of the Pops Rundown of the latest hits, including new videos, pre-chart sounds and live performances (1) (496)	
8.00 Porridge Fletch gives his new cast-mate a less than welcoming reception. With Ronnie Barker, Maurice Denham and Richard Beckinsale (1) (7944)	
8.30 A Question of Sport David Coleman puts the questions to team captains Ally McCoist and John Parrott and their guests: England cricket captain Mike Atherton, Three-Day-Eventer Karen Dixon, Leicester fly-half Joel Stansby and snooker's European Open champion John Higgins (1) (6699)	
9.00 News (7) and weather (370922)	
9.50 Election Broadcast: Conservative (1) (791729)	
10.00 Terminator II: Judgment Day (1991) with Arnold Schwarzenegger, Linda Hamilton and Edward Furlong. The cyborg returns this time setting out to protect the future saviour of the human race from a rival terminator with incredible powers. The various featurettes from the director's cut, previously unshown in Britain. Directed by James Cameron (1) (5022339)	
12.20 Young Bill Young (1968) with Robert Mitchum, Angie Dickinson, Robert Walker, Jim and David Carradine. A young and impressionable gun man is helped through a series of world-case-scenarios by a mysterious stranger intent on avenging the brutal murder of his son. Directed by Burt Kennedy (5937510)	
1.45pm-1.50 Weather (5827539)	
VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes' numbers, which allow you to record your programme over and over again with a VideoPlus+ decoder. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ (""), PlusCode ("") and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.	



Peter Alliss visits Spain (8.00pm)

8.00 A Golfer's Travels with Peter Alliss Peter Alliss heads to southern Spain (1) (8108)	
8.30 Gardeners' World Cultivating fruit in a small garden and keeping cats off flowerbeds (1) (4011)	
9.00 Have I Got News for You? Current affairs comedy quiz, hosted by Angus Deayton with team captains Ian Hislop and Paul Merton. The guests are Hugh Dennis and Will Self (6533)	
9.30 Sunnydale Farm Ray's conscience suffers a pounding when Letchworth offers him cash to help keep woodland protectors of his land. Rural sitcom, with Phil Daniels, Mark Addy, Beth Goddard and Matt Lucas (1) (97639)	
10.00 Rehab C. Nesbitt (1) (34632)	
10.30 Election Broadcast: Conservative Party (1) (15429)	
10.35 Newlight (957816)	
11.30 Electoral Broadcast: Conservative (1) (201547)	
11.45 Snooker Coverage of the conclusion of one of today's best-of-25-frames second-round matches (1584309)	
8.30 Reduce Speed Now presented by Eamonn Holmes (4767)	

8.00 **A Golfer's Travels with Peter Alliss** Peter Alliss heads to southern Spain (1) (8108)

8.30 **Gardeners' World** Cultivating fruit in a small garden and keeping cats off flowerbeds (1) (4011)

9.00 **Have I Got News for You?** Current affairs comedy quiz, hosted by Angus Deayton with team captains Ian Hislop and Paul Merton. The guests are Hugh Dennis and Will Self (6533)

9.30 **Sunnydale** Farm Ray's conscience suffers a pounding when Letchworth offers him cash to help keep woodland protectors of his land. Rural sitcom, with Phil Daniels, Mark Addy, Beth Goddard and Matt Lucas (1) (97639)

10.00 **Rehab C. Nesbitt** (1) (34632)

10.30 **Election Broadcast: Conservative Party** (1) (15429)

10.35 **Newlight** (957816)

11.30 **Electoral Broadcast: Conservative** (1) (201547)

11.45 **Snooker** Coverage of the conclusion of one of today's best-of-25-frames second-round matches (1584309)

8.30 **Reduce Speed** Now presented by Eamonn Holmes (4767)

8.00 **A Golfer's Travels with Peter Alliss** Peter Alliss heads to southern Spain (1) (8108)

8.30 **Gardeners' World** Cultivating fruit in a small garden and keeping cats off flowerbeds (1) (4011)

9.00 **Have I Got News for You?** Current affairs comedy quiz, hosted by Angus Deayton with team captains Ian Hislop and Paul Merton. The guests are Hugh Dennis and Will Self (6533)

9.30 **Sunnydale** Farm Ray's conscience suffers a pounding when Letchworth offers him cash to help keep woodland protectors of his land. Rural sitcom, with Phil Daniels, Mark Addy, Beth Goddard and Matt Lucas (1) (97639)

10.00 **Rehab C. Nesbitt** (1) (34632)

10.30 **Election Broadcast: Conservative Party** (1) (15429)

10.35 **Newlight** (957816)

11.30 **Electoral Broadcast: Conservative** (1) (201547)

11.45 **Snooker** Coverage of the conclusion of one of today's best-of-25-frames second-round matches (1584309)

8.30 **Reduce Speed** Now presented by Eamonn Holmes (4767)

8.00 **A Golfer's Travels with Peter Alliss** Peter Alliss heads to southern Spain (1) (8108)

8.30 **Gardeners' World** Cultivating fruit in a small garden and keeping cats off flowerbeds (1) (4011)

9.00 **Have I Got News for You?** Current affairs comedy quiz, hosted by Angus Deayton with team captains Ian Hislop and Paul Merton. The guests are Hugh Dennis and Will Self (6533)

9.30 **Sunnydale** Farm Ray's conscience suffers a pounding when Letchworth offers him cash to help keep woodland protectors of his land. Rural sitcom, with Phil Daniels, Mark Addy, Beth Goddard and Matt Lucas (1) (97639)

10.00 **Rehab C. Nesbitt** (1) (34632)

10.30 **Election Broadcast: Conservative Party** (1) (15429)

10.35 **Newlight** (957816)

11.30 **Electoral Broadcast: Conservative** (1) (201547)

11.45 **Snooker** Coverage of the conclusion of one of today's best-of-25-frames second-round matches (1584309)

8.30 **Reduce Speed** Now presented by Eamonn Holmes (4767)

8.00 **A Golfer's Travels with Peter Alliss** Peter Alliss heads to southern Spain (1) (8108)

8.30 **Gardeners' World** Cultivating fruit in a small garden and keeping cats off flowerbeds (1) (4011)

9.00 **Have I Got News for You?** Current affairs comedy quiz, hosted by Angus Deayton with team captains Ian Hislop and Paul Merton. The guests are Hugh Dennis and Will Self (6533)

9.30 **Sunnydale** Farm Ray's conscience suffers a pounding when Letchworth offers him cash to help keep woodland protectors of his land. Rural sitcom, with Phil Daniels, Mark Addy, Beth Goddard and Matt Lucas (1) (97639)

10.00 **Rehab C. Nesbitt** (1) (34632)

10.30 **Election Broadcast: Conservative Party** (1) (154



RACING 44-45

Connery spies
glory chance
at Punchestown

SPORT

FRIDAY APRIL 25 1997

CRICKET 48-49

Reports from
every first
class match



Juventus back changes to final stages

Uefa consider new format for European Cup

By JOHN GOODBODY

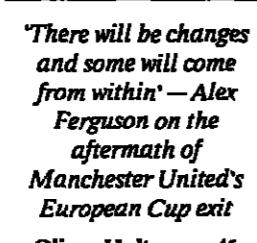
JUVENTUS, backed by several leading clubs, including Manchester United, have proposed a week-long climax to the European Cup with the semi-finals and the final all played in the same country.

The plan put forward by the Italian club, who are the holders and meet Borussia Dortmund, of Germany, in the final in Munich on May 28, has been given unofficial approval by Uefa, European football's governing body. The proposal is to abandon the present format of two-legged semi-finals and a final some weeks later in favour of a week-long tournament of knockout matches. This would also allow Uefa to change the qualifying European Champions' League from six groups of four clubs to a more natural four groups of six.

Referring to the plan of Roberto Bettega, the Juventus managing director, Fritz Ahlström, a Uefa spokesman, said: "All the other quarter-finalists reacted very positively and so did Uefa. That means we will discuss it, but it would not be possible before the 1998-99 season."

The main motivation to restart the competition is money. Although attendances in the final stages would be smaller than the present system of home-and-away ties, television companies and sponsors would be excited by the idea of a concentrated climax to the tournament. Uefa has already raised more than £400 million from the first five years of the Champions' League and plans to match that figure in the next three.

The gross revenue from the competition this year is more than £100 million, even more than Euro 96, although, of course, there are far more games in the annual European Champions' League for clubs than in the quadrennial European championship for countries. With 38 television companies and eight leading sponsors each paying a minimum of £2 million up to Ford's estimated £10 million, the income from the tournament



"There will be changes and some will come from within" — Alex Ferguson on the aftermath of Manchester United's European Cup exit

Oliver Holt, page 46

Next season, 56 teams will be competing in the European Cup. They will consist of the 48 champions from Uefa's member countries and the eight runners-up from Uefa's eight leading countries, which include England. The preliminary round will be played over two legs on July 23 and July 30, and the FA Carling Premiership champions and runners-up are exempt, although Rangers will be expected to enter at this stage.

The eight runners-up will join in for the next round, on August 13 and 27. After this, clubs qualify for the 24-strong Champions' League, for which

is growing all the time. Jürgen Lenz, the director of TEAM Marketing AG, which markets the Champions' League for Uefa, said that the tournament will remain predominantly a free product for television viewers well beyond 2000. In England, ITV has the rights until 2000.

Lenz said: "This is a competition with such massive appeal that we have to deliver it to the widest possible audience. I believe that, until maybe 2010, there is absolutely no question that the tournament will remain on free TV."

There must always be a space for an outsider, because that is one of the charms of top football. That is how the world discovered teams such as Cameroon and Nigeria.

However, the second point is that a high level of quality must be maintained. There must be a sort of guarantee that the Uefa Champions' League must present the best that European club football has to offer. The new qualifying system is designed to ensure that this is the case."

Uefa, meanwhile, is adamant that it will not allow future winners of the English League Cup automatic entry into the Uefa Cup until the Premiership complies with its request to reduce its membership to 18. Leicester City, as Coca-Cola League Cup winners this season, will be the last club to have the privilege of entry.

Roberto Baggio, the AC Milan international, is a surprise inclusion in the Italy squad for the World Cup qualifying match against Poland in Naples on Wednesday. His call-up may have been prompted by concern from Cesare Maldini, the national coach, over the fitness of Gianfranco Zola, the Chelsea striker, who has a hamstring injury.

Baggio, 30, whose international career looked to have come to an end under Arrigo Sacchi, the former Italy manager, has ironically found favour again at a time when he has struggled to get into the Milan side — now managed by Sacchi. Baggio has won 45 caps, but last played for Italy in their 1-0 win over Slovenia in September 1995.

FABRICE SANTORO, of France, added another big name player to his collection yesterday, when he eliminated Sergi Bruguera, of Spain, 3-6, 7-5, 6-1 in the third round of the Monte Carlo Open.

Santoro, the world No 90, knocked out Thomas Muster, the world No 2 from Austria, in the second round and has now beaten two of the leading clay-court tennis players in the world in three days. Both are former French Open champions and, between them, they have won five Monte Carlo Open titles.

"I had not won many matches before coming here, so these two victories are very important to me," Santoro, 24, said. "I rank them among the three or four best wins in my career."

The secret of Santoro's success yesterday, as it had been against Muster on Tuesday,

was his variation of stroke and change of style away from a baseline-dominated game.

"This year, I realised that I could not go on like that if I wanted to make a career in tennis," Santoro said. "I was a ball fiddler. My game belonged to the Seventies more than the Nineties. I have tried to be more aggressive the last few months because my game is not that powerful," Santoro said. "I have tried to come to the net more, rather than win points from the back."

He also tested Bruguera with slices and charged the net frequently. "The last few tournaments I have won a lot of points racing into the net, so I am beginning to feel altogether more comfortable there," Santoro added.

After losing the first set, the Frenchman raced to a 3-0 lead in the second set and, although Bruguera broke back and levelled the scores,

Santoro regained the initiative by breaking Bruguera's service again to take the set 7-5.

Santoro started the deciding set as he had the second, by taking a 3-0 lead. Bruguera seemed unable to raise his game, Santoro winning 12 points in succession and hitting three aces in the seventh game to close out the match.

In a tournament that has thrown up a string of surprise results, ten of the top 16 players have failed to get past the second round including Pete Sampras, Boris Becker and Muster, who were all eliminated in one afternoon.

Magnus Larsson, who beat Sampras, reached the fourth round yesterday with a 7-5, 6-0 victory over Daniel Vacek, of the Czech Republic, and now meets Marcelo Rios, of Chile, the losing finalist last year, 7-6, 6-4.

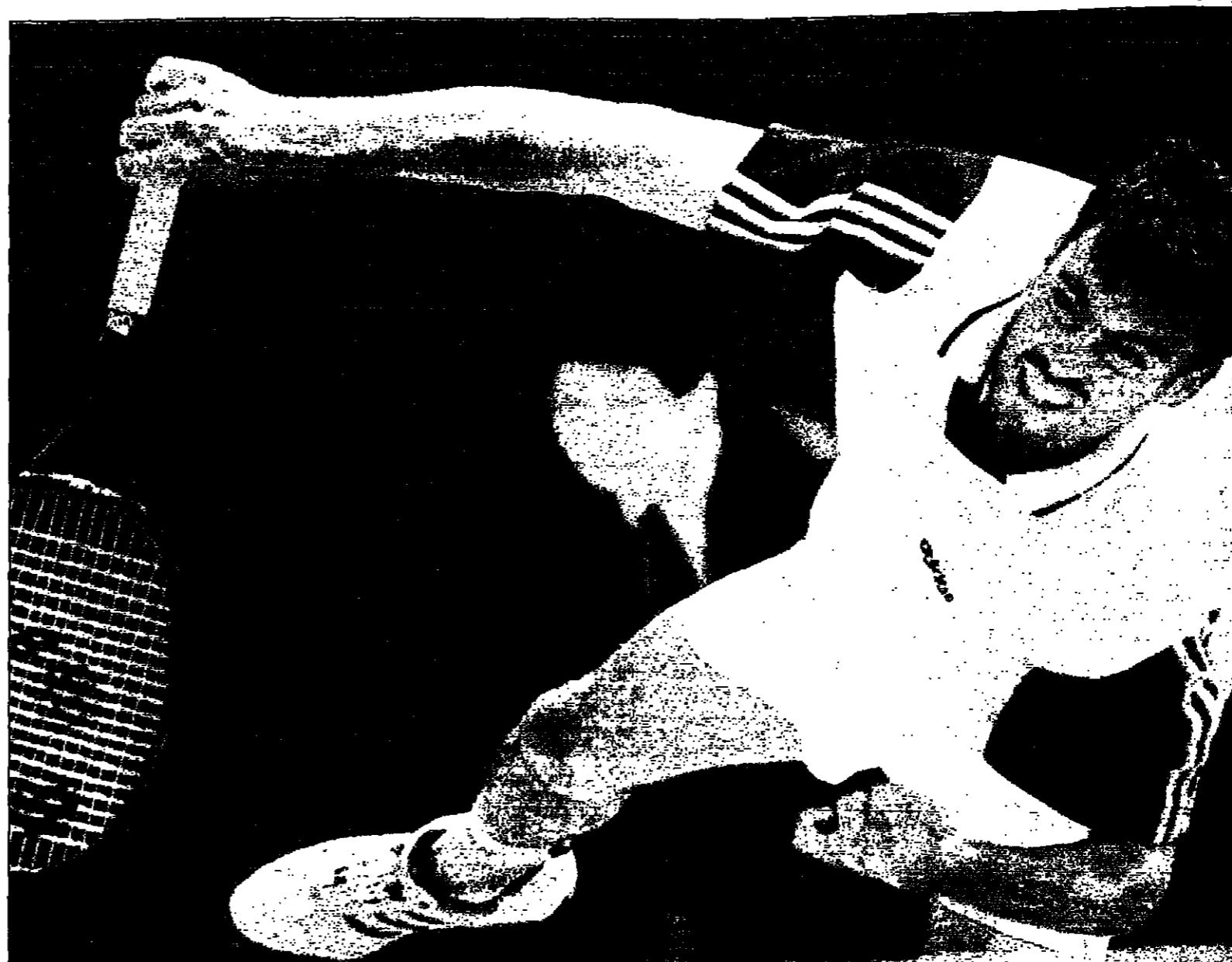
Rios, seeded seventh, was gaining revenge for his semi-

final defeat by Costa 12 months ago. In a match that produced some of the finest rallies of the week, Rios was able to raise his game when he needed it, winning the first-set tie-break 7-3 and making a vital break in the ninth game of the second set.

Richard Krajicek, the Wimbledon champion from Holland, made short work of Mark Philippoussis, the talented young Australian, winning 6-3, 6-2.

In the LTA satellite tournament in Bournemouth yesterday, Julie Pullin, of Sussex, the national champion, made smooth progress into the last four with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Claire Taylor, the second seed from Oxfordshire. Pullin now faces Nathaly Tijsen, of Holland, for a place in the final.

Elsewhere on the women's scene, Martina Hingis, the world No 1, is reportedly making a good recovery after an operation to repair ligaments in her left knee, which she injured in a fall while horse-riding on Monday.



Bruguera serves during his third-round defeat by Santoro in Monte Carlo yesterday. The Spaniard offered little resistance in the final set

Santoro claims another notable scalp

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

FABRICE SANTORO, of France, added another big name player to his collection yesterday, when he eliminated Sergi Bruguera, of Spain, 3-6, 7-5, 6-1 in the third round of the Monte Carlo Open.

Santoro, the world No 90, knocked out Thomas Muster, the world No 2 from Austria, in the second round and has now beaten two of the leading clay-court tennis players in the world in three days. Both are former French Open champions and, between them, they have won five Monte Carlo Open titles.

"I had not won many matches before coming here, so these two victories are very important to me," Santoro, 24, said. "I rank them among the three or four best wins in my career."

The secret of Santoro's success yesterday, as it had been against Muster on Tuesday,

was his variation of stroke and change of style away from a baseline-dominated game.

"This year, I realised that I could not go on like that if I wanted to make a career in tennis," Santoro said. "I was a ball fiddler. My game belonged to the Seventies more than the Nineties. I have tried to be more aggressive the last few months because my game is not that powerful," Santoro said. "I have tried to come to the net more, rather than win points from the back."

He also tested Bruguera with slices and charged the net frequently. "The last few tournaments I have won a lot of points racing into the net, so I am beginning to feel altogether more comfortable there," Santoro added.

After losing the first set, the Frenchman raced to a 3-0 lead in the second set and, although Bruguera broke back and levelled the scores,

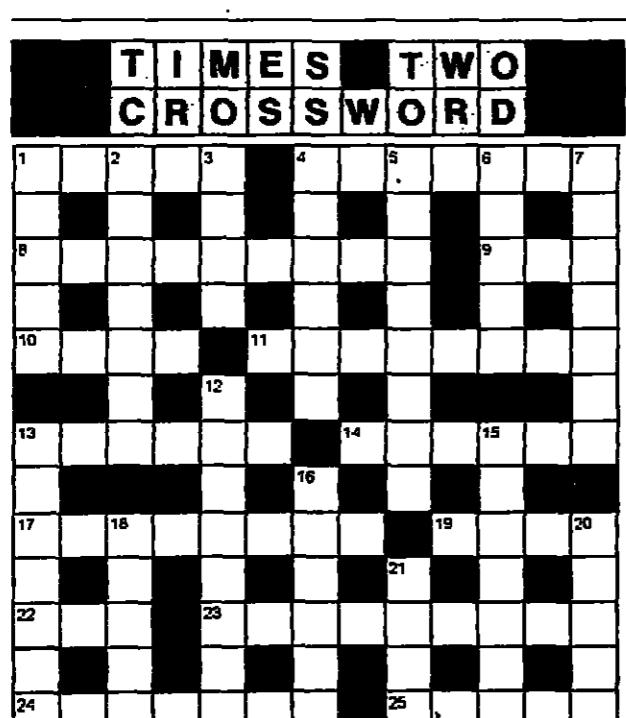
Santoro regained the initiative by breaking Bruguera's service again to take the set 7-5.

Santoro started the deciding set as he had the second, by taking a 3-0 lead. Bruguera seemed unable to raise his game, Santoro winning 12 points in succession and hitting three aces in the seventh game to close out the match.

In a tournament that has thrown up a string of surprise results, ten of the top 16 players have failed to get past the second round including Pete Sampras, Boris Becker and Muster, who were all eliminated in one afternoon.

Magnus Larsson, who beat Sampras, reached the fourth round yesterday with a 7-5, 6-0 victory over Daniel Vacek, of the Czech Republic, and now meets Marcelo Rios, of Chile, the losing finalist last year, 7-6, 6-4.

Rios, seeded seventh, was gaining revenge for his semi-



No 1077

- ACROSS**
- 1 Engender (5)
 - 4 1950s hippie (7)
 - 8 (Can't do something) at all (5)
 - 9 Like Marvel's mistress (3)
 - 10 Tracked road vehicle (4)
 - 11 Showing remorse (8)
 - 12 Blurred (eyes) (6)
 - 14 Talk boringly, at length: exactly (4,2)
 - 17 Agra mausoleum (3,5)
 - 19 Insincere: fluent (4)
 - 22 Falstaff's Prince (3)
 - 23 Abandoning (all) other, BCP (9)
 - 24 Use of plural for / (5,2)
 - 25 One prejudiced (5)
- DOWN**
- 1 Be suitable for (5)
 - 2 Relevant (7)
 - 3 You (arch.) (4)
 - 4 Shock-absorber; old fool (slang) (6)
 - 5 One from New World (8)
 - 6 Recess (for statue) (5)
 - 7 A noble gas; Superman planet (7)
 - 8 Appalling (8)
 - 9 Meat seller (7)
 - 10 Irritating; making sore (7)
 - 11 Peter Pan author (6)
 - 12 Wobbly sweet (5)
 - 13 Coastal indentation (5)
 - 14 Smear (paint) roughly (4)

The solution to 1076 will be published Wednesday, April 30.

PRICES NOT INDICATED ARE SUBJECT TO TAXES READERS (REST OF WORLD) ADD 10% ITEM. STERLING/DOLLAR CHEQUES ONLY (U.S. 1.00, £1.00, TIMES CROSSWORDS - Books 1, 11, 12, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 2, 245 puzzles £5.99; Crossword Solver's Dictionary £10.95; UK and Commonwealth Manual £9.99; Collins Roger's Jokes £4.99; The Times Crossword Books 3, 4, 5, 6, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 7, 8, 9, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 10, 11, 12, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 13, 14, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 15, 16, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 17, 18, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 19, 20, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 21, 22, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 23, 24, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 25, 26, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 27, 28, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 29, 30, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 31, 32, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 33, 34, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 35, 36, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 37, 38, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 39, 40, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 41, 42, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 43, 44, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 45, 46, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 47, 48, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 49, 50, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 51, 52, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 53, 54, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 55, 56, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 57, 58, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 59, 60, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 61, 62, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 63, 64, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 65, 66, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 67, 68, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 69, 70, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 71, 72, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 73, 74, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 75, 76, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 77, 78, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 79, 80, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 81, 82, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 83, 84, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 85, 86, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 87, 88, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 89, 90, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 91, 92, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 93, 94, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 95, 96, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 97, 98, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 99, 100, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 101, 102, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 103, 104, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 105, 106, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 107, 108, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 109, 110, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 111, 112, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 113, 114, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 115, 116, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 117, 118, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 119, 120, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 121, 122, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 123, 124, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 125, 126, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 127, 128, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 129, 130, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 131, 132, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 133, 134, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 135, 136, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 137, 138, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 139, 140, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 141, 142, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 143, 144, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 145, 146, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 147, 148, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 149, 150, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 151, 152, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 153, 154, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 155, 156, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 157, 158, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 159, 160, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 161, 162, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 163, 164, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 165, 166, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 167, 168, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 169, 170, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 171, 172, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 173, 174, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 175, 176, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 177, 178, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 179, 180, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 181, 182, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 183, 184, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 185, 186, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 187, 188, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 189, 190, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 191, 192, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 193, 194, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 195, 196, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 197, 198, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 199, 200, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 201, 202, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 203, 204, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 205, 206, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 207, 208, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 209, 210, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 211, 212, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 213, 214, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 215, 216, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 217, 218, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 219, 220, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 221, 222, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 223, 224, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 225, 226, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 227, 228, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 229, 230, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 231, 232, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 233, 234, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 235, 236, £1.35 each; The Times Crossword Books 237, 238